Hafa Adai!

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A look at Puntan Diablo Cove

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

"This, for me, is the million-dollar shot—and it's our mission to keep most of them."

This is what Alter City Group's managing director Ken Lin told Tinian residents at a public hearing last week, showing them a scenic view of the Puntan Diablo cove where, in 12 years, the whole of their 150-hectare project will rise.

"We want to put Tinian on the map of the world to become the

See DIABLO on **Page 4**

This "million-dollar shot" of Puntan Diablo in Tinian will be the view of Alter City's Plumeria Resort that was recently granted its major siting permit. The $1.2-billion project is expected to be completed after 12 years.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

RELATED NEWS

➤ DCRM approves Alter City Group's permit for Tinian. PAGE 2

Kensington opening moved to Dec.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Kensington Saipan Hotel's new target date for opening is now December 2015, according to its general manager, Matthew Park, who said that renovation work on the former Palms Resort Saipan continues.

"Hopefully, we will finish by December and have an opening ceremony for the hotel," Park said.

South Korean investment giant E Land Group had hoped to have its grand opening this October or November, as the renovations was estimated to last at least six months. The renovation will cost between $20 million and $30 million.

See KENSINGTON on **Page 4**

Fire to smoke out bees burns down abandoned home

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A property owner's burning of dry leaves and twigs to chase out bees triggered a fire at his abandoned house in China Town on Tuesday afternoon.

No one was reported injured and no treatment was provided to anyone at the scene for medical complaints in relation to the fire, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde yesterday.

Gersonde said the fire fully engulfed the house, which was

See FIRE on **Page 4**

Department of Fire and EMS personnel put out a structure fire in China Town. DEREK GERSONDE

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An American accused of illegally killing a lion in Africa thought the hunt was legal.
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Local

DCRM approves Alter City Group's permit for Tinian

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The major siting permit for a 150-hectare project on Tinian was approved by the Division of Coastal Resources Management five days after a public hearing was held and more than a week early before its deadline.

At a meeting Tuesday, the board approved the application of Alter City Group for its proposed $1.2-billion project in Puntan Diablo Cove, which will be called Plumeria Resort.

DCRM director and board chair Fran Castro thanked Alter City, which she said has worked with all agencies to provide all the information they needed to move forward with the process.

"Your coming to us and providing all the necessary information really made it an efficient process," Castro said.

Ken Lin, Alter City's managing director, expressed his thanks to the board.

"To us, this is the first step. Along the way, there are going to be a lot of difficulties, and we need each one of you to guide us and help us, step-by-step, to push forward," Lin said.

The board unanimously approved the siting permit.

Department of Public Works' Geralyn Dela Cruz noted Alter City's proposals to make road improvements, which is favorable to their department. DPW also supports Alter City's work on the current solid waste issue on Tinian.

Jonathan Arriola of the Division of Environmental Quality cited the efforts of Alter City's consulting team in working with DEQ to address any issues that may have arisen from the applicant's project.

Department of Commerce representative David Palacios emphasized the requirement of hiring a 30 percent local workforce as well as the importance of upward mobility toward mid- and supervisory level positions.

Also present at the meeting was Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, who thanked the board for going to Tinian to hear the support of the island for the proposed resort.

DCRM held the public hearing last Thursday at the Tinian Elementary School were residents showed overwhelming support for the project.

Some even called to expedite the approval of the application. The board's supposed deadline to act on the permit application was Aug. 8.

"We don't usually have these kinds of hearings or if we do, not too many people show up. I was very impressed by the amount of people that did show up and did stand up and talked about the issue of this permit application," said San Nicolas.

"For the purpose of this particular petition, or application, on behalf of the people of Tinian, we humbly request your support," he added.

Alter City paid a non-refundable fee of over $1.2 million for the first phase of its project on May 5. Last June, the group filed its application for a casino license.

The project will be done in three phases and is expected to be completed after 12 years. It is expected to create over 5,000 rooms on Tinian.

Aside from the hotel, villas, corporate villas and service apartments will be built. Amenities will include an 18-hole golf course, casino, waterpark, museum, clinic, cafe, restaurant, and shops, among others.

Lions Club recognizes Marquez, other members

Eleven members of the SFALC were given lapel pins as contributing members of the Lions Club International Foundation.
FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The Lions Club recognized some of its members and officers on Saipan during the club's ceremony at the Kanoa Resort last Saturday.

Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club immediate past president Nenita Marquez was named a Melvin Jones Fellow. She was awarded a plaque and a special lapel pin in recognition of her contribution to the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

According to district governor Daniel Yang, Marquez is recently one of the first in District 204 Region 2 to become a Melvin Jones Fellow as acknowledgment of her contribution to LCIF.

"LCIF is able to continue and expand programs through the generous support of Fellows such as yourself. You should take great pride in knowing you will impact so many lives, both in your immediate community as well as across the globe," LCIF chair Barry Palmer wrote in his letter addressed to Marquez.

The Lions Club also gave lapel pins to 11 members of the SFALC as they were welcomed as new members of the LCIF.

"I am extremely grateful for your club's support of our foundation through the contributing member program," Palmer wrote.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship was established in 1973 and is named after Melvin Jones, the founder of LCIF. It is considered as the backbone of LCIF, providing 75 percent of the foundation's revenue.

Marquez was also given special recognition by Yang for the outstanding membership growth seen during her term. She was able to recruit 18 new members.

"That is quite a record," Yang said, "With 20 members you can already charter but she recruited 18 members, that's a great record."

SFALC immediate past president Nenita Marquez is awarded a plaque as a Melvin Jones Fellow due to her contributions to LCIF.
FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Whelden responds to alleged EIS data omissions

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Responding to allegations of data omissions in the U.S. military's impact documents, the Marine Corp Forces Pacific said they would be evaluating public comments and doing additional analysis where necessary on impacts from proposed live-fire training on Pagan and Tinian.

MARFORPAC executive director Craig Whelden was responding to *Saipan Tribune*'s questions on why a 2012 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study on the "Site Characterization of Munitions-Constituents" and its referenced studies were not discussed in military environmental documents.

EPA confirmed these data omissions, among others, on Tuesday.

Whelden was also asked why the military asserted "less than significant" impacts to groundwater despite lack of evaluation of munitions-constituents impact, lack of baseline data, and an over-dependence on storm water erosion controls.

These concerns have been echoed by local agencies and government consultants in their review of military impact documents.

"While we have not yet received either the CNMI government or EPA's comments on the DEIS, we have received input from others on water-related issues," Whelden said in response.

"As you know, the period between the draft and final EIS is an opportunity for [Department of Defense] to evaluate all the comments received during the public review period and, where necessary, conduct additional analysis on our impacts based on these comments. We expect to undertake such a review of our ground water impact analysis based on these and other comments received," he said.

Dentons, the firm hired to review the environmental impact documents, notes that the military's live-fire project is "subject to a wide range of federal and CNMI laws, including the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act," and others.

"The [EIS] does not contain data and information necessary to demonstrate compliance with these requirements. On the contrary, the limited evidence presented in the document suggests that the CJMT would violate both federal and CNMI law," Dentons said in its findings regarding the legal adequacy of the military's live-fire project.

The Environmental Science Associates, which has been hired along with Dentons for the EIS review, says there is no way to evaluate the risk to human health and safety from the document or predict the risk to groundwater contamination with these data omissions.

"No data has been presented even on the existing conditions of the groundwater and soil," ESA director Jim Keany earlier said.

He said the U.S. military needs to:

- Develop a sampling scheme for groundwater and soil to determine the baseline, using the suggested protocols in the EPA paper;
- Use this EPA paper and other science documents to develop an analysis framework for predicting levels of soil contamination and risk to groundwater;
- Analyze the information and have it peer-reviewed by reputable scientists with relevant experience and knowledge;
- Develop a long-term soil testing program and a protocol for cleanup of all munitions on an annual basis; and
- Develop a supplemental EIS that includes this information and allow agency and public comments.

US govt calls 5 witnesses in marriage fraud case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government called five witnesses yesterday in the ongoing jury trial of Qiong Lu Pua, a woman charged with three others of conspiring in a fraudulent marriage in order for two of them to obtain green cards.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Russell Lorfing and Ross Naughton are expected to call at least five more witnesses when trial resumes today at 8am.

The prosecution began calling witnesses yesterday. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer Diane S. Zedde was called twice to the witness stand.

The other witnesses were U.S. Customs and Border Protection Saipan assistant port director Mark Layman, Norma Nekaifes, Bank of Hawaii branch manager Rose Sumor, and a Bank of Saipan custodian.

Pua is on trial for conspiracy to defraud the United States. Attorney Mark Hanson is her court-appointed counsel. Attorney Benjamin Petersburg is Hanson's co-counsel.

Pua's co-defendants are Zhenging Lu, Baoqin Ding, and Norma Nekaifes. Benigno Ilo Mettao was charged for the same conduct in a separate indictment.

Nekaifes and Mettao have already pleaded guilty. Lu and Ding are believed to be currently residing in China.

The indictment alleges that from June 2010 through July 2011, Pua, Nekaifes, Benigno Mettao, and others agreed to deceive USCIS by arranging into fraudulent marriages for the purpose of defrauding USCIS.

According to the prosecution, in 2005, Pua, a Chinese national, obtained legal permanent resident status after marrying Juan Pua, a U.S. citizen, but the two never lived together.

In 2010, Pua was allegedly looking for U.S. citizens for her family and friends to marry.

The U.S. citizens Pua found and solicited were her neighbors, Nekaifes and Mettao.

Nekaifes is the long-time girlfriend of Mettao.

Pua allegedly agreed to pay Mettao and Nekaifes several hundred dollars in exchange for Mettao and Nekaifes entering into fraudulent marriages.

Mettao married Ding in December 2010. Pua allegedly paid the prearranged fee.

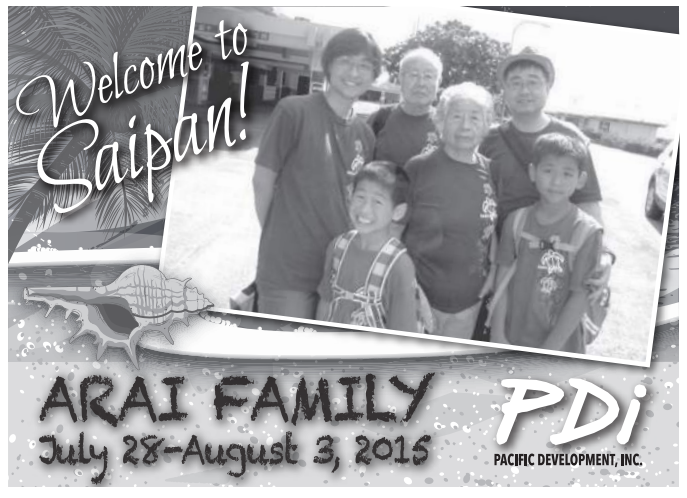
Mettao subsequently signed immigration status forms in January 2010, and lied to USCIS in May 2011—all allegedly at the behest of Pua.

In January 2011, Pua approached Nekaifes and allegedly asked if she would marry Pua's brother, Lu, for about $1,100.

On May 16, 2011, Nekaifes married Lu, whom she had allegedly met only the week prior.

In July 2011, Nekaifes submitted immigration forms to USCIS on behalf of Lu.

In Pua's case, the prosecution called it a marriage fraud case, but that it isn't a marriage fraud trial.



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Lawmakers to meet with IT&E

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

Members of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications are set to meet with representatives of IT&E sometime next week.

The main purpose of the meeting, according to Rep. Francis Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the committee, is to inquire about the service provider's contingency plans.

"We would like to know what their plans are, should another incident like this happens in the future," Taimanao.

The CNMI suffered a massive communications outage a few weeks ago, and according to IT&E, services returned to normal last Monday.

Repairs to the damaged submarine fiber optic cable were also completed, the service provider said.

Taimanao said he has already sent the letter of invitation for the meeting on Aug. 5 at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

"We will ask not just for the status, but for the damages that it [outage] created, including losses of the business community," Taimanao said.

He also plans to ask IT&E if it has a plan to upgrade its back-up system to "at least provide minimum operating capacity for the community" if an outage happens again in the future.

"Or at least a system to allow certain essential agencies, from both the private and public sectors, to be the priority," Taimanao.

He also plans to ask IT&E abort its plan to address "bottleneck" concerns.

"When services come back on and everyone on the CNMI start accessing, a bottleneck is created. How will IT&E address this in the future?" Taimanao asked.

Quitugua seeks initiative to allow Senate to file revenue-related bills

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a Senate legislative initiative to allow CNMI senators to file appropriations and revenue-generating bills.

The CNMI Constitution does not allow members of the Senate to file such bills.

Quitugua's Senate Legislative Initiative 19-04 seeks to allow senators "who may have good ideas" on revenue-generating legislation to introduce them.

Being an initiative, people will need to vote on S.L.I 19-04.

"Members of the Senate cannot file these type of bills. Even if we have good ideas, we cannot do it here [at the Senate]," Quitugua said.

Revenue-generating bills are only allowed to be introduced at the House of Representative. S.L.I 19-04 seeks to change this present set-up and allow both chambers to file revenue-generating bills.

Revenue-generating bills often tackle "anything that has got to do with money," Quitugua explained. "Examples are the casino law, bills on tax rebates, tax amnesty, and others."

He said the "power of the purse should not be limited to the House of Representatives, because great ideas relating to revenue generations and economic enhancements can also originate from the Senate."

But S.L.I 19-04 has an exemption, such as the bill for the fiscal budget of the CNMI government, which will still originate from the House of Representatives.

If Quitugua's proposed initiative can muster three-fourths of the votes from the House of Representatives and Senate, it will be placed before voters for ratification at the next general election. *(Joel Pinaroc)*

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WITH TWO PLANES FINALLY OPERATIONAL

Cape Air customers hope for safety and reliability

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Cape Air/United customers are hopeful the announcement of two planes for Cape Air's Guam to CNMI route means more safety and reliability—but they're keeping their fingers crossed.

Frustrated consumer Rose Hocog began a petition last year over the growing concerns on the mechanical and technical problems being encountered by Cape Air/United's aircraft and its frequent cancellation of flights.

Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she would like to express her utmost appreciation to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C Sablan (Ind-MP) for his assistance in working with Cape Air/United to bring two planes to its Guam-CNMI route. Sablan broke the news Tuesday.

Hocog also thanked those who signed the petition and shared their frustration, and most especially to the Cape Air frontline employees who received and put up with customer complaints and dealt with their anger and frustration.

The recent development, although it is an improvement, only means that Cape Air will have two planes, Hocog said. "It doesn't guarantee a safe and reliable service nor does it mean that we will get the kind of service we deserve for the amount they are charging."

"I would like to know if the planes' AC will be working, will it still leak when it rains, what the backup plan is should one of the planes break down again—these are not new planes so we expect that it will have issues again," she said.

Another consumer, Ignacio Dela Cruz, is a recent graduate of the University of Guam and frequently flies between Guam and CNMI in his visits back home from college. He said he is glad that steps are being taken toward improving air travel here in the CNMI.

"When I went to Guam for my college graduation in May I was delayed both times I had to fly to Guam," he said. "It was frustrating because I had a schedule to keep and the delay forced me to push everything back."

"I was not the only passenger who had to travel to Guam for important matters. We waited for about two hours to get onto the plane and then once we were in the plane we had to wait an extra 30 minutes."

"It was completely unbelievable—the horrible service we received—and to think the ticket costs an arm and a leg," he said.

For students traveling to Guam and the CNMI during the summer and holidays, tickets average around $400.

"Now I hope there will be less delays and—with a miracle—airfare will lower a bit because Cape Air is the only airline that provides transportation for the Saipan and Guam route and their inadequate service has damaged our economy for several years now."

Dela Cruz hopes another Cape Air plane will move the CNMI in a better direction for air travel.

Sablan first broke the news on his Facebook page. The Commonwealth Ports Authority on Tuesday confirmed that the second plan had arrived and was at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport and had to do flight tests before it flies.

No solid date on the second flight was available as of press time.

The Cape Air public affairs office did not provide a statement on the new development despite multiple requests.

On Tuesday, Sablan announced that the second airplane that went through required major maintenance arrived in Guam yesterday afternoon. "It will take about a week or so to remove the extra fuel tank they installed and to retrofit the airplane for passengers. After some testing, Cape [Air] will have two airplanes to service the Northern Marianas-Guam route."

STUDENT ORIENTATION
Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart, standing left, speaks to new NMC students during orientation held Wednesday, July 29, 2015. Registration for the college's 2015 semester is ongoing until Aug. 14, 2015. For more information about the fall 2015 semester, call 237-6772 or visit www.marianas.edu.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRE

From Page 1

made up of wood and tin materials.

The department received a call from 911 about a structure fire in China Town on Tuesday at 3:27pm. Firefighters from Forestry 1 Unit at the Susupe Fire Station and Engine 2 from Garapan Fire Station were immediately dispatched.

Gersonde said firefighters placed the fire under control and fully extinguished it at 3:39pm.

Arson investigators determined that a property owner burned dry leaves and twigs when he noticed that bees had infested his abandoned house.

Gersonde said the fire spread rapidly to the house's light materials that had signs of termite infestation.

DFEMS closed the case after investigators determined that the cause of the fire was accidental.

On Monday, a 63-year-old man sustained first-and second-degree burns when the burning of coconut husks as mosquito repellant triggered a fire at his semi-concrete house in Dandan.

Last June 26, the burning of coconut husks as mosquito repellant also caused the fire to spread to a parked van and a house's garage in As Perdido. No one was injured.

KENSINGTON

From Page 1

E Land broke ground on its multi-million renovation of the property in April this year, rebranding it as Kensington, E Lands' popular hotel brand in South Korea.

A total of 313 rooms are being renovated. Once the renovations are done, the hotel will provide about 250 to 300 job opportunities.

"Now we are doing construction phase for the lobby areas and all the rooms. We are now doing the design for the interior. We cleared already, just construction such as breaking in the walls to make bigger space," Park said.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said they welcome the news that Kensington may possibly start operations before the year ends.

"The additional rooms will allow us to expand and have more visitors during the peak periods and we look forward to their opening," Tenorio said.

Once online, E-Land expects the former Saipan Nikko Hotel in San Roque to add much-needed hotel rooms to the CNMI's rebounding tourism industry and create hundreds of job opportunities for Saipan residents.

The lack of hotel rooms is an issue that not only turns off potential tourists but hurts the markets as well, according to AVIAREPS Marketing Garden founder and chair Michael Merner during MVA's general membership meeting in July last year.

Merner noted that the lack of hotel rooms in the CNMI particularly affects Korea, China, Japan, and Russia, while Taiwan, one of the newest markets for the CNMI, lacks flights to and from Saipan.

The cavalry, however, appears to be on its way as new investors Best Sunshine International, Ltd., Honest Profit, and Alter City Group are constructing more rooms that will be available in the future.

DIABLO

From Page 1

world's tropical island destination," Lin said at the hearing prior to the Division of Coastal Resources Management's approval of Alter City's major siting permit.

The Puntan Diablo cove, developed or not, is a wonder.

Varying hues of blue and aquamarine paint the sea beyond what the eyes can see. By the shoreline, the water is so clear that from above, you can see the schools of fish and corals, giving a mistaken impression that it is shallow waters. On the horizon sits Aguijan Island.

The cove is lined with beaches such as Barcinas Beach, Leprosarium Beach, and other pocket beaches where fine white sand carpets the shore. Beyond it are rows of trees and plants, providing green canopies. Rock formations dotted with plants, seemingly thrown randomly by a giant hand, decorate the water.

This is what Alter City saw as a potential for development. And even though they will "alter" and build a "city" on the island, they promise to retain its natural beauty.

"What we have strictly ordered our designers when we ordered them to design [is] not to touch the coastline as much as we can," Lin said.

The Macau-based company's chief executive officer, Edvon Sze, said they don't have plans for marine activities and attractions just yet.

"As you can see we haven't touched anything on the water. We want to preserve the beauty of this scenery, the water, the sea turtle, and things like that," Sze said.

Alter City assured that these beaches will still be accessible to the public as is required of them.

Aside from not touching the coastline, Alter City also plans to protect the historic sites of the place. The property that is now under lease has a rich history and a number of historic sites, including a cave where a World War II canon hides, the leprosy sanitarium, cemetery, as well as a latte stone quarry.

During the public hearing last week, Alter City Group said that their approach toward cultural and historic sites is to respect and protect them.

The group said that known historic sites have been avoided and that they plan to create a cultural trail. They will also be building a museum and will be displaying historical finds at the lobby of their upcoming hotel to further promote the island's culture.

Alter City even showed how their architectural plans for their hotel and casino resort project was inspired by various natural and cultural elements such as the plumeria flower, sea turtle, the taga and the taga house.

According to Sze, they spent lots of time planning different types of preservation because he believes that "this is the island where World War II ends and where peace begins."

He believes their project is a matter of striking a balance between development and preservation.

"We want to take a balance while we're doing something, constructing buildings here while on the other hand we'll preserve the environment, the beautiful scenery of this island," Sze said.

Man allegedly punches ex-girlfriend, steals her phone

Probable cause has been found to charge a man who allegedly punched his former girlfriend in the face in front of her child. He also allegedly demanded $100 from her in exchange for her cellphone that he had stolen.

At a preliminary hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio determined there was probable cause to charge Peter John Castro Tudela, 24, with aggravated assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Arraignment will be on Aug. 3 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda called to the witness stand police officers John Santos and Edwin Aguon, who were among the police officers who responded to the Saipan World Resort in Susupe, where the alleged beating happened last Thursday.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato appeared as counsel for Tudela.

Police said the victim lost consciousness and suffered a laceration above her left eyebrow that required six stitches.

Police detective Dee Liza S. Udui stated in her report that when the victim regained consciousness, she felt blood running down her face so she drove herself to the hospital, where she reported the incident to police.

During an interview by a police officer at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room, the victim stated that prior to the incident, Tudela sent her a text that read, "Come to my work or I will find you."

The victim went to World Resort, where Tudela works, but he was not there. A co-worker informed her that Tudela went to Bank of Guam in Chalan Piao so she followed him there. The two then agreed to meet at World Resort.

At the World Resort's parking lot, Tudela got inside the victim's car and allegedly apologized for stealing her purse last July 11 at the True North Bar in Garapan.

Tudela then allegedly asked for money but the victim refused to give him any as she is raising two children. The report did not mention whether the defendant is the father of the two children.

Tudela then left to return to work but he allegedly secretly took the victim's cellphone. When she noticed that her phone was missing, she took her son inside the hotel, where she confronted him for taking her phone.

Tudela denied taking the phone so she asked the hotel's security guard to check Tudela's locker. The guard, however, was unable to help her.

While standing in front of the entrance to the Wave Jungle, Tudela demanded $100 from her in exchange for her phone. She offered $80 and Tudela agreed to give the phone back. Tudela left and then came back with the phone. He, however, refused to give the phone if she would not give him $20 more.

When she refused, Tudela threw the phone next to her car. The victim took her son, picked up the phone and left the area in her car. As she was reversing the car, she heard a thump on her window. Her car's door opened and heard Tudela shouting profanities at her. When she turned to look, Tudela punched her in the face. She blacked out for a minute or two and was awakened because her son was screaming and crying. She then proceeded to the hospital.

At 2:31pm that same day, two police officers responded to the World Resort where they arrested Tudela and brought him to the Department of Corrections. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

9th Circuit dismisses man's appeal from being extradited to S. Korea

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has dismissed the appeal of Korean businessman Jae Boong Kim, who was found by the federal court to be extraditable.

The Ninth Circuit clerk of court dismissed Kim's appeal after he failed to file an opening brief in the case, as required by the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.

The Ninth Circuit directed Kim's lawyer, Stephen Woodruff, to notify immediately his client about the case's dismissal.

Woodruff said he would be asking the Ninth Circuit to recall the mandate and reinstate the appeal and he expects that they will agree.

"This is a ministerial duty of the 9th Circuit clerk; however, the clerk was not aware of special circumstances that excuse the failure," Woodruff said.

He pointed out that the clerk was unaware of the Internet disruption that the CNMI experienced for nearly three weeks, which made it impossible to do any online legal research or file anything with the court.

Woodruff said there are also other special circumstances involved in the case that he cannot discuss publicly at this point.

Federal agents arrested Kim on Saipan on May 17, 2013, based on two outstanding arrest warrants in South Korea for allegedly defrauding two women of about 530.8 million won (about $477,632) and defrauding some Korean nurses by falsely promising them jobs in Guam.

»Lawyer blames Internet disruption for failure to file opening brief

In October and November 2013, U.S. District Court for NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona issued a certification of extraditability for Kim in connection with the two cases.

Kim applied for a writ of habeas corpus. The federal court denied the petition. He appealed the denial.

In his appeal, Kim applied for a stay of extradition pending appeal in May 2014. The Ninth Circuit granted the request.

In November 2014, Kim asked the Ninth Circuit for release pending his appeal. The Ninth Circuit denied the motion, but allowed him to present the motion in the district court.

Kim then filed in federal court a motion for his release. In his motion, Kim, through Woodruff, asserted that he is entitled to release because his continued detention violates a federal statute that limits the period during which he may be detained to two months and special circumstances.

Woodruff maintained that the legal proceedings in this case have been extraordinarily protracted, and that the delay cannot be attributed to him.

DUE TO PENDING PERMIT

Thursday Market still can't operate

The Thursday Market, which was supposed to relocate to Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, will still not operate today.

According to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Commonwealth Council for Arts executive director Angel Hocog, they are still waiting for their permit from the Department of Public Lands.

Hocog said they have already submitted the requirements for the permit for a while now.

"Their staff told us [the application is] with the secretary already," Hocog said. "That's what's holding us back."

It has been almost two months since the weekly market has not been in operation. It last opened at the Garapan Fishing Base on June 11, 2015.

The Thursday Market gave way to the Liberation Festivities, which is currently using the same location and will be there until Aug. 16.

The weekly market was supposed to move back to its original location at the Paseo de Marianas but since it hasn't secured its permit yet, they can't operate.

Hocog added that they still have to fix some electrical lining once they secure the permit. He said they didn't want to start the repairs until they got the approval.

Since the Liberation Festivities only have more than two weeks until it closes, Hocog said they "might as well wait for them to move out and go on with our usual operations." ***(Frauleine S. Villanueva)***

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Best Sunshine leads the way in green technology

- **BSI uses green static pressure pile technology in construction**
- **Advanced technology used to minimize noise pollution during construction**
- **Technology used during construction is more efficient, greener, and safer compared to standard technology used during construction**

Best Sunshine is holding strong in its commitment to green. Leading the way in eco-technology during construction in the site of the future integrated resort, Best Sunshine construction has made little noise disturbance, a fact not lost to passersby.

Using advanced static pressure technology, the construction has made little to no noise pollution. Noise levels during construction by an outside listener are less than or equal to 55 decibels. If you happen to be standing inside, noise levels fall to 45 decibels. In comparison, noise decibels generated by standard equipment fall in the range of 70 decibels.

By applying static pressure to sheet piling, damaging vibrations can be avoided. It also prevents the compacting of subsoil, which further reduces the risk of environment damage or damage to neighboring buildings. In addition, it keeps the noise disturbance to a minimum. All things considered, the pressure-based installation of sheet piling is generally a good alternative if high frequency vibrations are ruled out as an installation technique, keeping environmental factors in mind.

The mechanics of static pressure go along the following guidelines. Static pressure pile machines are mainly used in soft soil in the process of pile driving a cone-shaped head directly to break through and penetrate the surface. Groundwater is impacted and pressure is caused by the uneven gap. This changes the structure of the land so that the density of the soil around the pile reduces, which helps to soften, thicken, and reshape the soil. This helps the static pressure pile into deeper strata. However, if the piling pressure pauses, parts of the formation of water pressure disappears.

This increases the density of the land, increases friction, and causes the pile soil to strengthen and increases resistance; the longer the pause time, the greater the intensity of soil restoration. There is no pause during the pile driving process. Best Sunshine's use of advanced green technology in the first phase of the hotel project construction so far is promising of future things to come. ***(BSI)***

KENDO COMPETITION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kan Pacific, which operates the Mariana Resort and Spa, donates $1,000 to the CNMI Keno Group, which will be representing the CNMI in the worldwide Japan Kendo Federation competition from July 28 to 30.

Law designates Saipan as the CNMI's capital

Acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres signed into law on Tuesday a bill that officially designates Saipan as the capital of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island on.

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) introduced Senate Bill 19-19, which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on first and final reading last month. It goes into the books as Public Law 19-02

The lawmaker said one of the main reasons she is pushing for Saipan to be the Commonwealth's capital is because it is where government offices and key agencies are located.

"Saipan is the most suitable island for the official capital of the CNMI in that it is also the location of the CNMI's central government and is where most of the government entities are situated," states part of the bill. "It is where the Legislature and the Office of the Governor are located, and I think it is but proper to make it the CNMI's capital."

Among the three major islands of the CNMI, Saipan also has the largest population, Santos said.

S.B. 19-19 further said the CNMI "does not have an official capital despite having an island chain that consists of the islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian."

Santos said making Saipan the CNMI capital may also have "benefits for business" as a tourism destination.

According to the 2010 Census, the CNMI has a population of slightly more than 50,000.

Saipan contains the largest population and also a larger land mass compared to Rota and Tinian.

The administrative center is located on Capital Hill on Saipan, which to most, makes Saipan the de facto capital of the Commonwealth. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Lawmakers' visit to Pagan set for August

Members of the Legislature and government officials are expected to join a trip to Pagan that is being organized by the Department of Public Lands.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) said that DPL has set "Aug. 20 or 24" for the trip.

Sablan said it will be good for members of the Legislature to participate in the trip, considering that a number has yet to see Pagan.

Sablan said there is also a possibility that other CNMI government officials, including acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres, will join the trip.

In June, DPL Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio said he is planning to explore Pagan to actually see what the island looks like, as talks about proposed military activities, homesteading, and free trade zones on the island continue.

The official said weather permitting, a chartered boat can take DPL representatives and lawmakers to Pagan "sometime during the summer."

Tenorio emphasized that the goal of the trip is "to check the place," adding that he has not visited the island in "15 or 20 years."

He said part of the visit is a homesteading "village" that was planned years ago. "I want to see where it is, and see if there are changes in the land," Tenorio said.

He said inquiries have already been made, and that the department has set aside $50,000 for the exploratory trip.

The U.S. military earlier expressed intention to lease the whole island of Pagan as a live training and bombing site. A draft environmental impact statement had been issued, detailing the potential effects of these activities.

But the proposal has been met with a resounding "no," not just by the CNMI community but also by lawmakers and Commonwealth leaders.

Currently, a team from consulting group Dentons is reviewing the draft EIS. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. 664-8300 • Fax No. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

July 30, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Alter City Group	04/30/2015	Plumeria Resort	San Jose, Tinian	Major Siting	Approved (7/28/2015)*
2. Wang's Corporation DBA GT Snorkeling	07/07/2015 SLRm-2015-X-058	Snorkeling Operation	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (07/21/2015)*
3. Auto Marine	07/21/2015 SPlm-2015-X-060	Dry Dock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (07/22/2015)*
4. National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS)	07/25/2015	Rule for Western and Central Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species: Purse; Seine Fishing Restrictions during Closure Periods	Offshore	Federal Consistency	Under Review
5. National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS)	07/21/2015	2015 Limit on long line-caught bigeye tuna for U.S. Pacific Territories	Offshore	Federal Consistency	Under Review

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

4 rescued after vessel runs aground on Rota

On July 25, 2015, at approximately 7:59am, the Rota Department of Public Safety was notified of a vessel that ran aground on the north side of Rota, in the As Dudu' area. Four male Filipinos were requesting assistance.

Police Sgt. Jarrod Manglona, along with CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, responded on the DPS *Zodiac* boat. They came upon a white 18-foot fiber/foam boat that was stuck on the reef. The owner of the boat is WJC Fish Market.

Police learned that the four fishermen started fishing at around 6:30pm the night before, July 24, 2015. On Saturday morning, July 25, 2015, at about 4am, the boat captain, who fell asleep on the boat, awoke to waves striking the side of the boat. The fishermen attempted to free the boat from the reef but were unsuccessful and were rescued by responding units.

The four fishermen were brought to shore and were assessed by DFEMS Emergency Medical Technicians, and no injuries were reported. The Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Coast Guard were also notified of the incident.

The boat is still stuck on the reef and steps are being taken by the owner to safely remove the boat from the reef in coordination with the proper authorities. ***(DPS)***

A group of emergency responders rescue four men after the boat got stuck on the reef on the north side of Rota, in the As Dudu' area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hours extended for temporary water outage

The temporary water service interruption Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Capital Hill experienced yesterday has been extended, as crews continue work on the Capital Hill Water Line and Pressure Improvement Project.

At 8am, CUC temporarily interrupted water service to customers on Capital Hill, Wireless Ridge, and portions of Chalan Galaide to allow CUC's contractor, Maeda Inc., to connect the new water main to the current distribution line on Capital Hill.

Work on the project was expected to take up to nine hours to complete, but the newly poured concrete thrust block requires additional to time to cure before water service will be restored to the area.

Acting executive director John Riegel said the additional curing time will allow the thrust block to withstand the force the water will put on the pipe once the pipe is pressurized.

"The project is taking a little bit longer than originally planned but the curing will be complete in a few hours and service will be restored tonight," said Riegel.

For more information about the project, contact our 24-hour Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). ***(CUC)***

TOC GOLF TITLE SPONSORSHIP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For the past few years, IT&E has faithfully maintained its Gold title sponsorship of the annual Tournament of Champions. Their sponsorship includes $2,500 cash and 2,500 in-kind donations. IT&E sales & marketing manager Hans W. Mickelson says, "IT&E is a big supporter of events and organizations whose purpose is to give back the island community. In this case, funds raised from TOC will go toward island beautification projects." From left, standing, are Jack Salas, TOC; Natashia Tomokane, IT&E; Hans Mickelson, IT&E; Jeff Taylor, TOC; and Boyet Centeno. Seated, from left, Marie Sablan, TOC; Elna Tighe, TOC; and Marida Pensader, TOC.

Senators respect same-sex marriage but. . .

Two lawmakers said they respect the decision of two individuals who exchanged vows last week in the CNMI's first same-sex marriage ceremony.

But Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) said he is not sure "how the community will react."

"This same sex-sex [marriage] is a choice of the individual, and we have to respect that choice. My only concern is whether our community can accept it," Hocog said.

The lawmaker cited the long religious tradition of the CNMI and its adherence to the Catholic faith.

"It is an issue of sentiment or value on our beliefs as Catholics. For me, I respect the individual choice," Hocog said, but pointed out that it goes against religious teachings.

Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) echoed Hocog's comments, saying it is a "democratic system" and that he also respect the individual choices of members of the community.

"We come from a religious community, but I do respect the court ruling," Mesngon said, adding that he grew up in a Catholic society where family is tied with tradition.

"I respect any individual on that choice, I can't go against that," Mesngon said.

Saipan Mayor David Apatang officiated the same-sex marriage rites between two women at his office last week.

Henry Hofschneider, adviser of Apatang, confirmed that the mayor presided over the rites of the two women, who were of Chinese descent.

The identities of the two women were not made public.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, saying it is a right guaranteed under the equal protection clause of the law, and that the ruling compels all states and territories to follow.

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan has issued a memorandum addressed to all authorized officials who can perform marriage ceremonies on the Commonwealth. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held
on Thursday, August 13th, 2015
at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg.
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 7/2/15 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2015-2664: B&K Corporation dba: Mariana Breeze is proposing to process distilled wines and liqueurs for retailing and wholesaling. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is situated on Lot 330R-2, on Beach Road, San Jose, between the Borja Funeral Home and the Kilili Beach park. It is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Communications

D. Old Business. None

E. New Business
Office Operations Report (permits/ enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

B&K Corporation dba: Mariana Breeze

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. B&K Corporation dba: Mariana Breeze is proposing to process distilled wines and liqueurs for retailing and wholesaling. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is situated on Lot 330R-2, on Beach Road, San Jose, between the Borja Funeral Home and the Kilili Beach park. It is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: August 13, 2015, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, August 12th, 2015 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

DCCA-DYS wraps up summer youth camp

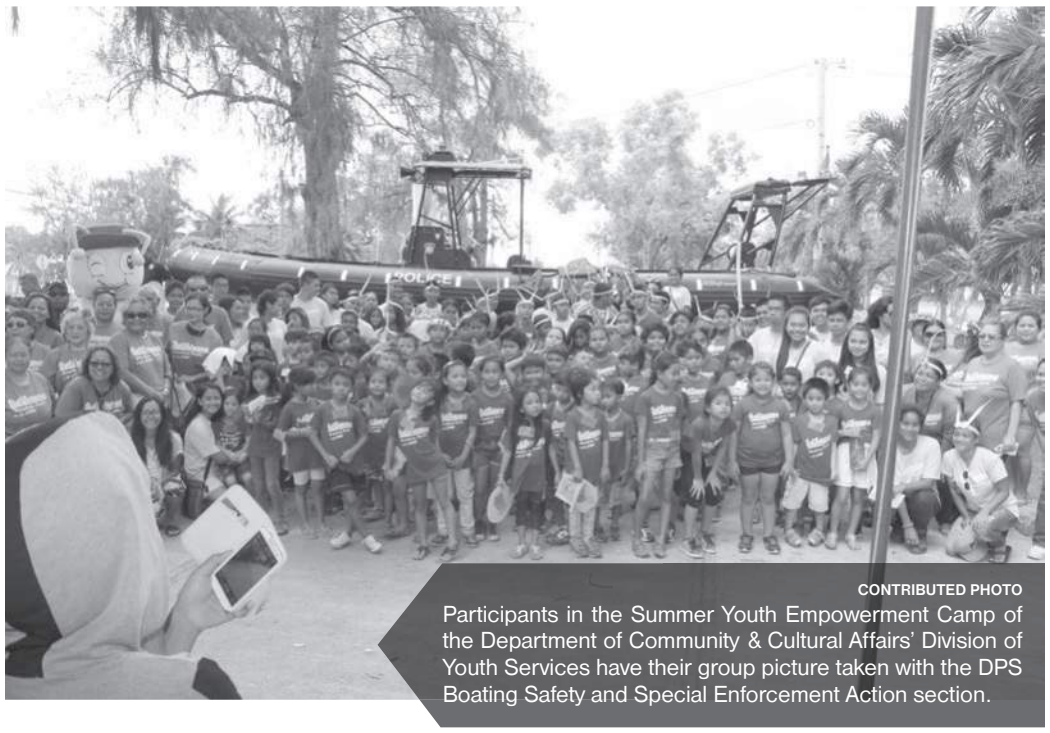
The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services wrapped up the two-weeklong Summer Youth Empowerment Camp on July 24, 2015.

The first week, which began on July 13, featured various sports activities to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles among the 114 youth participants ages 6 to 13. These activities included baseball, mini track, volleyball, basketball obstacle courses and a series of health presentations coordinated by the "CNMI Let's Move Marianas." To provide additional empowerment opportunities for the older youth groups, DYS extended an invitation and recruited a total of 38 volunteers to lead the camp participants in the daily activities. Most of the recruited volunteers signed up to meet community hour requirements for their respective schools.

Local artists from the DCCA Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, *man'amko* from the Office on Aging, and the Carolinian Affairs Office highlighted the second week's activities with various arts/craft sessions, which included coconut shell painting, cultural dances, music, *man'amko* storytelling, *mwar* making, bead making, leaf painting, paper art, and flower designs.

The last day concluded the arts/craft program with additional stations featuring the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Bookmobile and public safety awareness by the DPS Boating Safety and Special Enforcement Action section.

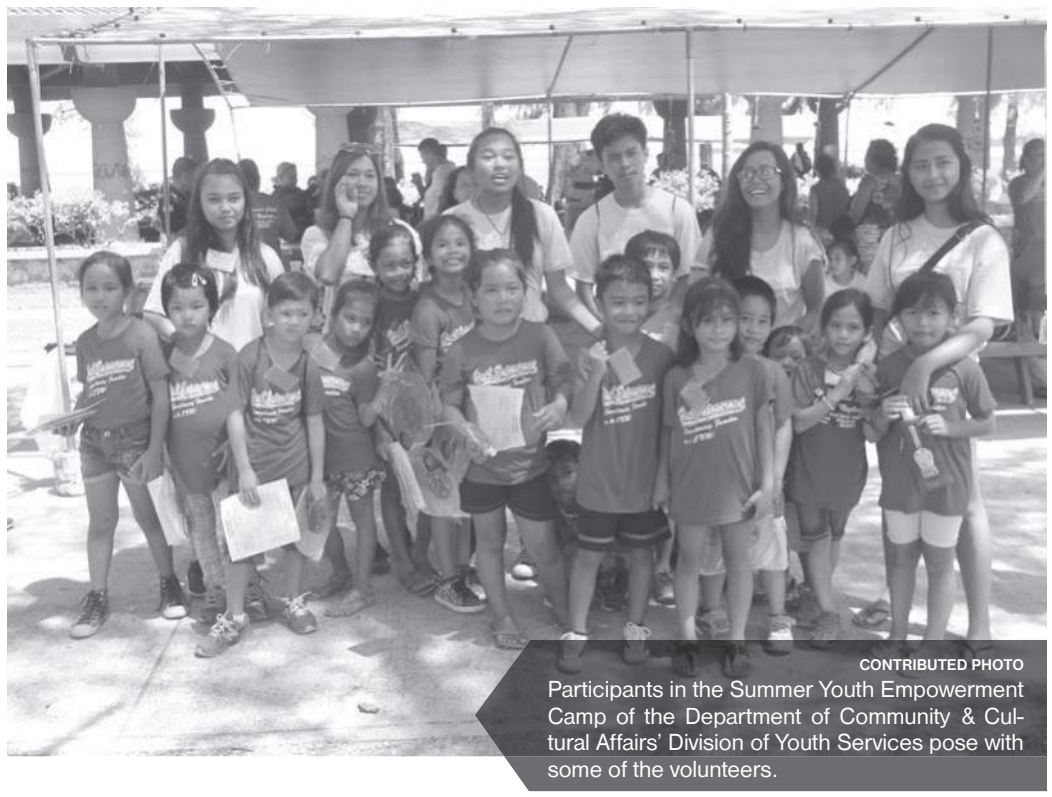
The success of the 2015 DCCA-DYS Summer Youth Empowerment Camp was made possible by the tireless efforts and commitment of the following partnering agencies: Carolinian Affairs Office, Northern Marianas College AHEC Program, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health/Let's Move Marianas, Northern Marianas Sports Association, Cultura Athletics, G Rollers Basketball Association, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, DCCA Office on Aging, DCCA Nutrition Assistance Program, and the DCCA Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the Summer Youth Empowerment Camp of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services have their group picture taken with the DPS Boating Safety and Special Enforcement Action section.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A story-telling session with the *man'amko*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The second week's activities featured various arts/craft sessions.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the Summer Youth Empowerment Camp of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services pose with some of the volunteers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The second week's activities also featured bead making.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The first week featured various sports activities to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles among the 114 youth participants.

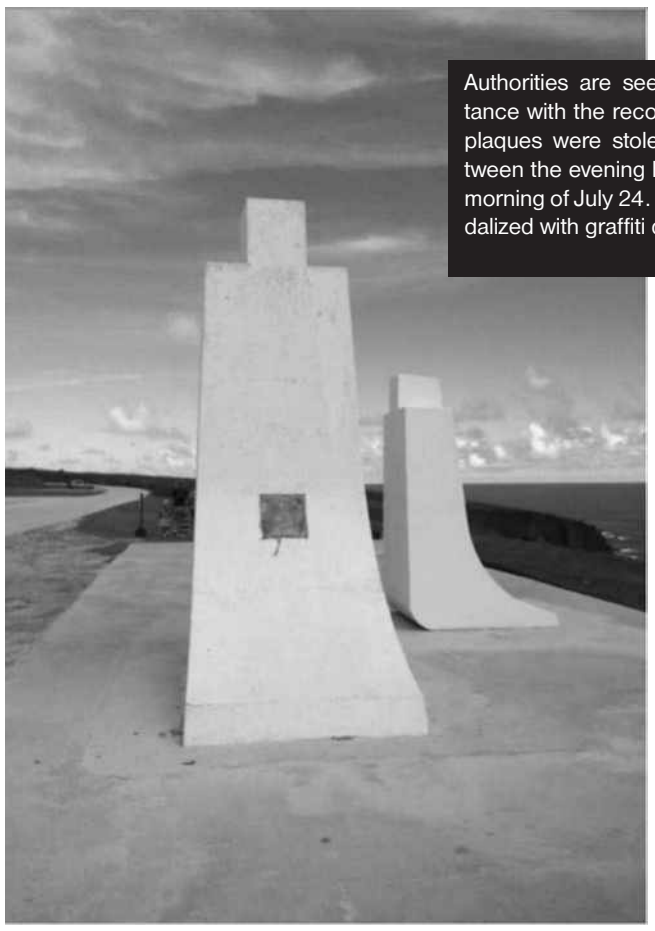
Two Saipan tourist sites are vandalized

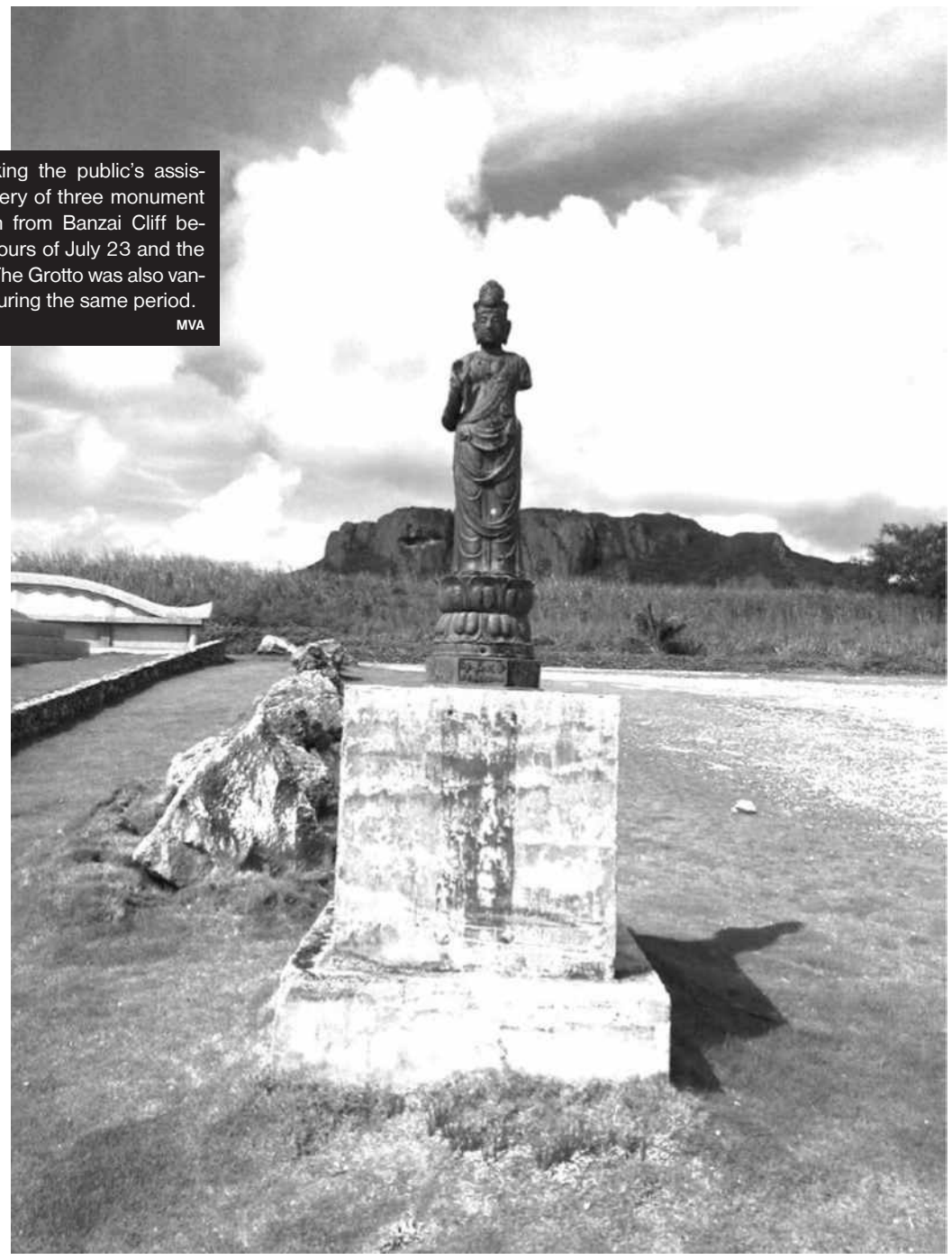
Authorities are seeking the public's assistance in identifying individual(s) responsible for vandalizing Banzai Cliff and Grotto between the hours of 5pm last Thursday, July 23, and 9am on Friday, July 24.

Three metal plaques from monuments and an ornament bowl for incense were stolen at Banzai Cliff. Also, graffiti was spray painted on the Grotto pavilion and water tank. The crimes were discovered by the Marianas Visitors Authority's security guards of G4S Security on Friday morning.

"The desecration of the memorials at Banzai Cliff is shocking," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This type of disrespect is completely uncharacteristic of our community, and we hope someone will provide information that will allow us to recover these plaques that have been placed by off-island and local groups in memory of the departed."

Graffiti at Grotto included the initial "A" and "#6." Community members are encouraged to contact the Department of Public Safety if they have information. ***(MVA)***





Authorities are seeking the public's assistance with the recovery of three monument plaques were stolen from Banzai Cliff between the evening hours of July 23 and the morning of July 24. The Grotto was also vandalized with graffiti during the same period. MVA

Green energy firm to turn on 1st solar energy system under its new program

Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI will be flipping the switch and turn on the first CNMI home under its "Solar as a Service" zero money down program this Friday, July 31, at 12pm, at the home of Christopher Leon Guerrero in As Matuis, Saipan.

At that time, MRE, Inc.-CNMI officials will explain the "Solar as a Service" program and its affordability to all CNMI residents.

"Solar as a Service" is the CNMI's first zero money down solar energy service program. Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI and its partner, Sunnova Energy Corp., launched the residential solar program for all CNMI homeowners in April 2015. Homeowners can save money by using a cleaner, more affordable alternative to their monthly power bill. With "Solar as a Service," the customer simply pays for solar power by the month, just like the normal power bill but at a lower amount, putting customer's hard-earned money back in their pockets.

Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI will install the system for free and provide maintenance and insurance for the life of the agreement. MRE and Sunnova will remotely monitor the system to ensure peak performance and should problems arise, MRE will dispatch a crew to get the system back online immediately. ***(PR)***

Pacific Islands planning for 2020 World Round of Population, Housing Censuses

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Pacific Census commissioners and government statisticians are meeting at the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community this week for an important Pacific Community planning meeting concerning the 2020 World Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

Countries around the world are urged by the United Nations to conduct at least one population and housing census in the decade spanning from 2015-2024, called the "2020 World Round", and to use internationally-adopted quality standards.

The meeting's main purpose is to review a proposed common set of core census and consider increased use of technology to improve efficiency in data capture and dissemination.

This will address a request by Pacific leaders and many regional and international data users for a greater harmonization of statistical classifications and systems, to support improved comparability of statistics between countries and the development of a core set of data across sectors.

Work on a core data set for the Pacific began several years ago with the establishment of the National Minimum Development Indicators database www.spc.int/nmdi, maintained by SPC, which contains over 200 development indicators, including all of the population-based demographic, economic and social indicators for the Millennium Development Goals.

In his opening address, SPC Deputy Director-General Cameron Diver underlined the important link between improvements in the quality of census statistics and efficiency gains for Pacific Island nations.

"True comparability of core statistics between Pacific Island countries and a speedier release of this information for data users could translate into common data processing systems and tabulations plans," Diver said.

"This process, combined with using technology to improve data collection and dissemination, could help achieve efficiency gains in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support for Pacific Island statistical systems," he said.

A senior statistician, Orlando Santo Monteiro, from the National Statistical Institute of Cape Verde in Africa—the only Small Island Developing State to conduct an electronic census during the last census round—is attending the meeting to share his country's experience with Pacific region peers.

Hosted by SPC's Statistics for Development Division, the meeting from July 27 to 31 is also attended by technical specialists from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand, the University of the South Pacific, international partners like UNESCO, UNICEF and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Palau and Kiribati are the two Pacific Island nations conducting their national censuses this year. ***(SPC)***

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce a vacancy on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Robert H. Hunter, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **August 14, 2015**. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The cops and the feds

The recent killing of Kathryn Steinle as she walked arm in arm with her father along San Francisco's Embarcadero was horrific, even if the details remain murky. That Steinle's alleged killer had seven previous felony convictions and had been deported five times only makes the incident more complicated and politically charged.

Amid the outrage over Steinle's death and the debate over who was responsible for releasing her alleged killer from the San Francisco Sheriff's Department's custody in April instead of turning him over to immigration authorities, the U.S. House last week passed a measure sponsored by Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., that is, at best, poorly conceived public policy. The overreaching measure would withhold federal law enforcement grants from local governments that have laws precluding police from querying civilians about their immigration status. Similar measures have been proposed in the Senate.

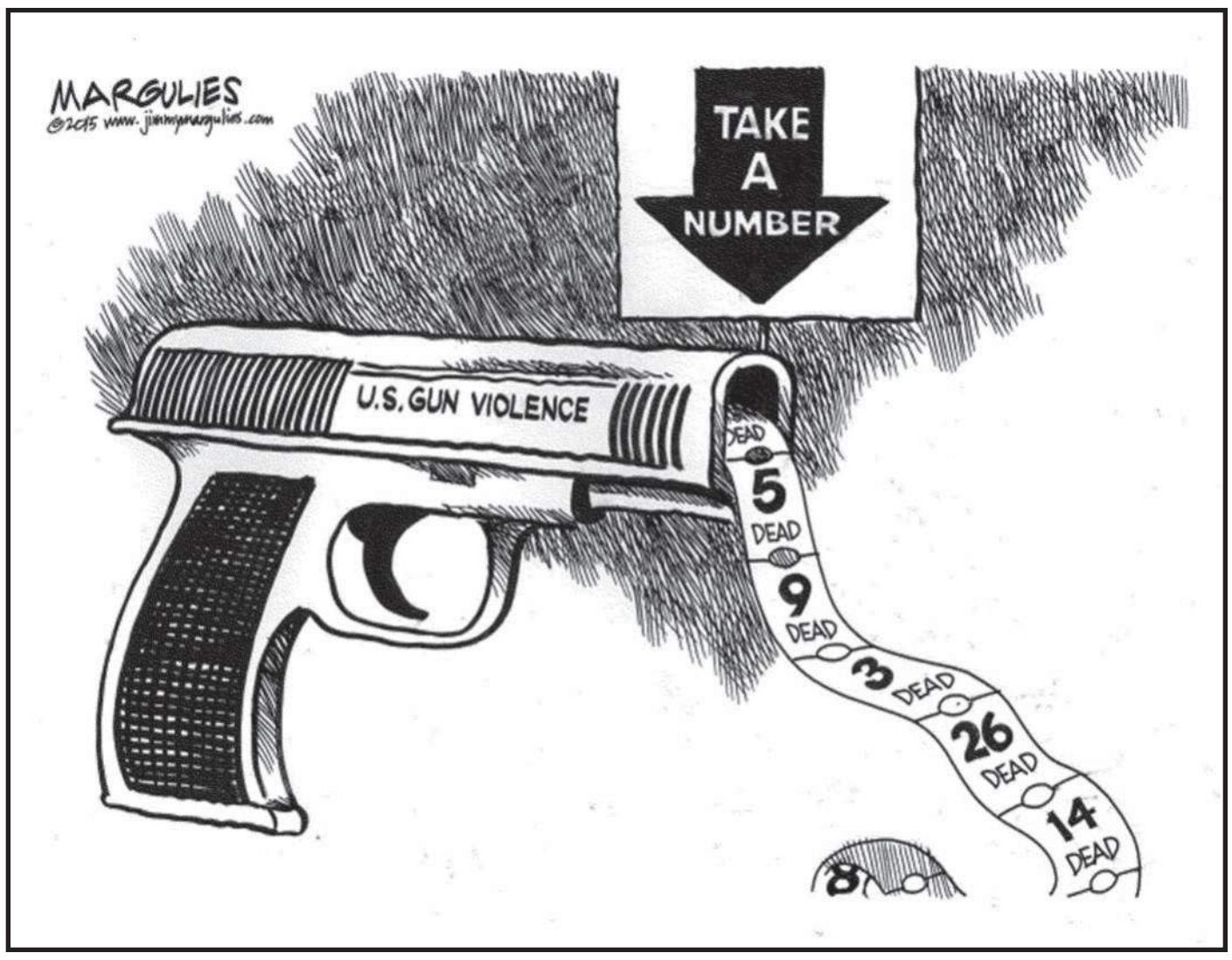
The Obama administration opposes the bill for valid reasons: The federal government should not compel local law enforcement officers to serve as de facto immigration agents. Conscripting police into that role not only muddies responsibilities, but runs the very real risk of dissuading people living in the country illegally from reporting crimes they have witnessed, or in which they are the victims, for fear they might be deported. That compromises local police agencies' fundamental responsibility for public safety.

It is reasonable, though, for local law enforcement to notify federal authorities when someone on the government's list of priority removals—such as a violent criminal—is being released from jail. Not only reasonable, but necessary.

The focus of these legislative pushes are so-called sanctuary cities, which are largely fiction. In Los Angeles, the Police Department's Special Order 40 directs that "officers shall not initiate police action with the objective of discovering the alien status of a person." That does not prevent officers from turning over those arrested for other offenses to immigration authorities. It protects no one from federal immigration enforcement. It simply makes someone's immigration status irrelevant to the local investigation at hand, and leaves immigration enforcement with the federal government, where it belongs.

Rather than threatening local governments and withholding grants, Congress should instead get serious about the root problem: the dysfunctional immigration system. The federal government needs to work cooperatively with local police agencies to make sure that dangerous criminals living here illegally are deported in a timely manner—while Congress and the president also work to pass fair, comprehensive immigration reform.

(c) 2015 *Los Angeles Times*



Ruth Tighe, 1931-2012

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I hold a picture of a lady lugging her oxygen tank etched in my mind. I first ran into her as a newcomer on island. She was a recognized maven of the press. I had not yet pretended that I could write! *On my Mind* was a rich throve of her wisdom liberally sprinkled with honesty and precision without hesitation or apology. She also did not mind sharing her mind over a cup of tea!

We met for lunch in Susupe shortly after I quit teaching at SVES in 2008 to attend to a cervical spondylosis that took me away from the classroom. Her pen was still feisty as ever and she did not mince her words when I got too casual with my grammar.

She was always "serious" in her writings as she was on anything she wrapped her mind around. It was that mind that we all ran into, with some seared, others chastened, and folks like me purified; she brought her mind to these islands by the time she already had 50 years of a lifetime.

That I should be thinking of her on her birthday 84 years ago attests to the lasting influence she had on other people's lives, including mine. Through her example and reminders, we were not encouraged to think in a particular way, only that we bother to think at all. And not be sloppy about it, especially if we put down on paper the results of our ruminating.

I am always remiss to attend memorial services because of the "fake" nature of such events, with eulogies declared to high heavens on an inert body that would not care less. The CNMI Legislature was smart enough to pass a resolution in Ruth's honor for her contribution to the Marianas community while she was still alive and alert to receive it (16th Legislature, 2010 HR 16-104).

I wrote a "eulogy" earlier to her memory on this page when she was still around to read about it.

In Ruth L. T. on my mind, I wrote: "The secret is how to die," begins *The Lost Symbol*, the sequel to Robert Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. "Indeed, in a time when what passes for comfort is an escapist avoidance of reality, and the balm for struggle is to anesthetize the suffering and numb the pain, the issue of who is in charge of one's dying has become a live issue in the hallowed battle ground of communal obedience and individual freedom. ... Ruth L. Tighe continues to report on her health and her occasional need of oxygen, and though I do not run into her anymore, I hold a picture in my mind of a woman who approaches the one death she will ever struggle to die to, with tranquility and equanimity."

It is in the same vein that I paused for my "memorial service" five years ago and every five years thereafter, this year, probably to hold one in public. The focus, of course, is not on my life, or that of Ruth, or anyone else except that of anyone living a life they'd hesitate not to memorialize. We neither write nor live for our own edification, nor call attention to it, save as somehow through the telling of the living of our lives, we manage to invite others to reflect on how they live theirs. We focus on ourselves so others can discover themselves in the reflection. In a sense, that's how Ruth came across to me.

Simon Anholt of the Good Country Index fame has taken to rating 200-some countries that currently "behave" as entities, using internal (self satisfaction) and external (contribute to the welfare of the whole planet) categories, a veritable improvement over the two entities that Pope Alexander identified when he decreed in the Inter caetera Bull that the planet was going to be divided between Spain and Portugal, clarified by the two parties in the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas.

The increase of categories from two to 200 in more than 400 years may be a little too slow for many who now deal with current computerized databases. But with the Obama watch (NSA pun intended) and $200 million going into "research" this year, and business-to-consumer transactions in the Internet to reach 450 billion per day in 2020 (conservative estimate), Wal-Mart now handling a million customer transactions every hour, decoding the human genome taking 10 years before can now be achieved in matter of days, and AT&T calling records at two trillion, we can perhaps get Simon to see if he can shift his advisory and tech-savvy to computerize 7.5 billion names on the planet this year, and analyze existing records by individuals (some will be more prominent than others), to come up with a "Good Human" index!

We need to distinguish our use of the words "selfish" and "selfhood," with the first, as Anholt uses it, denoting an internal state of satisfaction, to "selfhood" as a state of authentic self-awareness relating to the facticity of one's finitude (I'm on an 86-year-long journey), relationship to the society of birth, profession, contact, and the geography where one is domiciled, to the nature of one's story of the whole shebang! The thing is, an index of this nature is currently feasible, and there is probably a smart and bright-eyed 6-year-old already starting to build it.

Knowing that Ruth Tighe existed in the planet is not the point. That we all do is. Thanks, Ruth!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The ongoing saga of Saipan and Samoa

MARIANAS MATTERS

By MUFI HANNEMANN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mufi Hannemann is a Harvard-educated former mayor of Honolulu. He is the principal of MFH Enterprises and is the chair and founder of the Pacific Century Fellows program.

One of the biggest epiphanies that I have experienced of late is discovering that a group of 10 brave Samoan matai (chief) and their families are an important part of CNMI history. Last month the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, after years of meticulous planning and research, unveiled the 100th anniversary of its "Samoan Exiles in Saipan" program to the public, with a great assist from a dedicated group of individuals of Samoan ancestry who reside in the Commonwealth.

Big-time kudos to Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell, for not only recognizing that this is an important part of "the local history" but he saw the relevancy of the connection between Samoa and Saipan. He and program officer Lolly Villagomez proactively incorporated the proper Samoan perspective in their efforts to retrace and record history during this period. Russell placed a great premium on engaging in the "...interaction and talking and telling stories and remembering things and putting the pieces back together," so that an accurate recording of what actually occurred would take place.

Russell and Villagomez also were astute enough to appreciate the importance of being culturally sensitive. They wisely reached out to the Saipan Samoan community through Maria and Arthur Camacho for expert advice and guidance, especially since they wanted to pay homage to the Samoan culture, given the number of distinguished visitors that were coming to the CNMI for this auspicious occasion. Hence the protocol for the 'Ava and Sua ceremonies were conducted properly in the traditional Fa'a Samoa (Samoan way of life) manner which impressed the guests from off-island.

Villagomez describes the June 17-20 Humanities program as "awesome and incredible." Dr. Malama Meleisea, a noted historian who is the director of the Center for Samoan Studies at the National University of Samoa, did a " fabulous job" of explaining how peaceful resistance warriors like Chief Lauaki Namulau'ulu Mamoe's participation with the Mau a Pule movement, led to his falling out of favor with German colonial officials. Lauaki and nine other chiefs' involvement with the Mau led to their banishment from Samoa in 1909 and they were exiled to the Marianas—another part of the German Empire in the Pacific. They were not able to return to their homeland until after the Germans relinquished control of Samoa to New Zealand during World War I. Unfortunately for Chief Lauaki, he never made it back to Samoa because he passed away en route at sea.

From my studies as a Fulbright Scholar in New Zealand, I learned that the Mau a Pule was basically a nonviolent movement for Samoa independence from German and New Zealand rule in the 1900's. In fact, my father Gustav's uncle, Tupua Tamasese Leaolofi III, one of the leaders of the Mau, was the central figure in what has gone down as Black Saturday. He and eight others were gunned down on Dec. 28, 1929 (11 in all died) by NZ military police in a peaceful demonstration they held to protest the arrest of a fellow Mau member. As Tamasese lay dying in the family village of Vaimoso, he uttered these words which has become immortal in Samoan history: "My blood has been spilt for Samoa. I am proud to give it. Do not dream of avenging it, as it was spilled in peace. If I die, this must be maintained at any price."

It took over 30 years after his untimely death but in 1962, Samoa eventually became the first Pacific island country to be granted its independence. Furthermore in 2002, NZ Prime Minister Helen Clark issued a formal apology to Samoa for New Zealand's treatment of Samoans during its colonial reign while in Apia during the 40th anniversary of Samoa's Independence celebrations. Tamasese's son, Tupua Tamasese Meaole, became the country's first co-head of state with Malietoa Tanumafili II. I recall my parents' excitement in going to Aloha Tower in downtown Honolulu to greet His Highness when he visited Hawaii and how my dad's cousin insisted, much to the consternation of the Secret Service, that he ride in his cousin's ordinary car that day.

One of the chiefs who came over with Lauaki was Iiga Pisa. Pisa's time in Micronesia was legendary. He not only was conversant in Samoan and German but courageously sailed 120 miles by himself to Guam in a Samoan paopao (canoe) in his quest to learn another language (English). Chief Iiga knew that with English now being spoken heavily in Apia rather than German, it was imperative for him to learn that language if he were to maneuver successfully between the two cultures when he eventually returned. Several members of his clan, led by great-granddaughters Faautu Talapusi and Fuailelagi Tuitama, were present at the ceremonies on Saipan, according to Gomez, "proudly sharing their anecdotes , tales and feats, of their daring and brilliant great grandfather." Thanks to Chief Iiga Pisa, most of what we know of what transpired with the Samoans in Micronesia during this time as well as his phenomenal four-year learning experience in Guam is remembered. Executive director Russell re-emphasizes, "... one of the things we're fortunate to have is an account that was written by the Chief himself in the early 1940's..."

Lest we forget, it is noteworthy that the Humanities Council dedicated two areas with appropriate signage highlighting important landmarks of Samoa's history in the CNMI. One area is the site of the first Samoan village, which is north of Lower Base, and the second is Unai Agingan, the place where Chief Iiga launched his paopao to sail to Guam. Moreover, Russell plans to compile the archival information and couple it with the oral history and recent transcripts from the 100th anniversary and make it available as booklets for the schools and colleges in the CNMI and Samoa.

Having now been exposed to this aspect of Samoan history on Saipan, I can see why the Honorable Peter Tali Coleman, prior to returning to Pago Pago to become the first popularly elected governor of American Samoa, adjusted so well and enjoyed a very successful tenure during his 17 years as an American appointee in a variety of executive positions in the former U.S. Trust Territories of Micronesia. The talented Coleman was the district administrator of the Marianas Islands and served as both the Deputy High Commissioner and acting High Commissioner of the U.S. Trust Territories. His experience here left an indelible imprint on his philosophy and outlook on the Pacific region that followed him throughout his exemplary career.

He and his wife Nora and most of their 13 children and some of their grandchildren are quite familiar with the region. I recall him speaking very fondly of his time here on Saipan and for those that knew the Colemans when they were here, the feeling was mutual and continues today with his family that resides in the CNMI. His granddaughter Marie was part of the Saipan Samoan community that helped with the 100th anniversary. Governor Coleman's life is yet another shining example of the special bond and affinity that has existed between the Samoan and Chamorro people over the last century.

In the short period of my time in the Marianas, I guess you could say I, too, have been smitten with the Samoa/Saipan bug. You won't find me performing a heroic act like Chief Iiga or come close to compiling the record of accomplishments of former High Commissioner Coleman anytime soon. Plainly speaking, I am enamored with the Marianas and am not shy about proclaiming to my friends and family why this is such a special place. For now, I'll settle for being the "tallest Chamolinian" admirer around.

77 Industrian Turista

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Guaha `nai tataitai estoria na mauleg kinalamten industrian turista. Hinegse este ni otru gaseta na iya Marianas ha susteteni i kinalamteña fitme.

Buenu! Yangin homlu` este na industria haf` na taigue benefisiu gi sueddon i tautau siha? Yangin i paska na ekonomia ha susteteni mauleg kinalamten pa`gu, haf` na taigue `sino ti talili`e` adelantoña ennau na sinistene gi kinalamten guine?

Dispues, arastreha tatte haf` sessu diariu masusesede gi industria ni tapopo`lu na homlu`. Kanaha` todu bisnes monhayan mafahan gi mafanana`an "coupon" entalu` Japon, Korea, China yan otru lugat.

Manhuyuñg mage Marianas `nai kontodu neñkanu` niha monhayan ma-apase gi tanu` niha. Gi hilu` este na modun bisnis, manu `nai nina`e` kampu i tautau-ta bumenefisia kinalamten este na industria? Ha huchum pattisipasion bisnis i tanu` ayu na taya` sumasaunau gi este na patte gi ekonomian iya Marianas.

Siña mohon i manma`gas uma-estudiaye este na industria para tali`e` haf` na diariu maletke pattisipasion bisnis tautau tanu`? Siha man-apatte ni trosu, hita i ampodoñg sopbla gi hilu` satge, haf` mohon?

I puntu: Ti mattu china man-inosenteta gi haf` masusesede. Huñgan guaha siha cho`chu` lau puru offisiun mantagpapa` `nai hita rumikokohe anpoduñg granum hinegsa` gi satget.

I manmaseñala siha na adelantu siempre ta kahate silensiu para ta estudiaye kau magahet benefisiosu para i tautau-ta. Mientras ke gagaigeyu` bai` sige ha` yumeñgyuñg i troñku pot para bai` li`e` tinegcha` i ta añgoghu na sombra para hita lokue`.

Kinententu Yan Pas

Buente pot ume`emahalañgyu` silensiu yan katma gi ha`anihu mina` hu senagradese `nai hu bisita un` amku` gi lanchoña giya Talofofo guine gi alacha. Sumasaga i prohimu gi fina` fitme na lanchon siguale. Kontentu gi lugatña.

Mitinanom gi hatdin yan `nos pinegsai siha para mantensioña. Tiha u`usa kandet `sino hanom siuda. Nahoñg ni kandet falut yan finagteña hanom gi `nos kuantos tañken 50 galon. Ni usun televisión tiha offisiona.

"Nahoñg ni chalamlam miyon na pution gi lañget `an pueñge, katen paluma yan manog gi taftaf oga`an yan minachom atdau". Hagas talayeru yan peskadot. Guaha `nai manyotte talaya `sino lumulai gi kanton kantit para u tulaika sabot sentadaña.

Ha atanyu` ya chumaleg, ilegña, "Cha`mu e`esun mañgge` sa` ennau mana`imu na katgu ginen hilu`." Ti mapot na offisiu sa` hagas fafayihu. Sige ham dispues umayote pot appenas fondu gi kahan iya Marianas.

"Kulan ha ige hit manadan gastu yan maribahan kontribusion aduana", ha apunta huyuñg. "Debi u guaha satton na inadahe gi todu riñkon obligasion yan dibi". Huñgan guaha inadahe lau tinanahoñg chigu`an pat gaige mohon i problema gi bisiun dispiddisiau na gastu?

Huli`e dispues kelaguen tiao gi hilu` lamasa yan tininon tinala` katnen babue. Ha repara dispues na sigeyu` mamañot. Ilegña, "Guaha piniloghu dididi` para chinile`mu kontodu fina` golai yan gulusina". Huli`e` `nai manhoka masan mañga na hana` fan sahñge i manlañayon para i babue. Ha po`lu i manmauleg na pinedoñg para chinile`hu.

Hu faisen prontu haf` hinassoña pot tinilaikan modun linala` natibu entre antes yan pa`gu. Ha mensiona maliñgun sensian komunida, kuttura yan mdtgot na sensian kilisyanu. "Puede ti maliñgu lokue` finu` Chamorro sa` kanaha` todu famaguonta pa`gu manfinu` E`Eñglis". Ensegidas ha apunta huyuñg na i presetbasion espiritun natibu gaige gi mañaina gi haf` ma-impatta ginen halom guma` huyuñg". Konfotmeyu`.

Ilegña na ha komprende liñguahen ineyag yan bisnes "lau chatmiyu fan malelefa ni riku na tradision natibu ni ha intrega hit si guelu sa` ayu muna` likidu espiritun natibu".

Fresku magahet lugatña ni inarendonduye manloka` troñkun mames. I cheflan mañglu` yan katen ga`ga` mina` katma mas sinienteghu piot kada ginapot i hagon niyog ni mañglu` haya. Hu diñgu gi lemlem tautau magof i amku` pot finatoghu yan konbetsasion haf` manmasusesede.

Man-ñahlalañg

`Nos kuantos mansabiu guaha `nai matuka pot "presetbasion" kuttura. Gi kada huhuñgog este na palabra hu hahassu modun natibu gi presetbasion inasnen guihan, tinala` katne yan konsetban papaya.

Hu konsidedera kau makomprende haf`` sustansian yan signifikasion "presetbasion"? Kau usun kuttura yan tradision diariu i modun presetbasion? Na ti sinparat ta praktitika modun linala`ta diariu? Kasi dinancheña `an ta usa sin ditension tat palabra kumu "petpetuasion".

Kuttura pot kustumbreta kumu natibu. Tradision i ma`ug na patte gi kutturata ni ta impatta gi famaguonta hinerasion pot hinerasion. Yangin presetbasion ta fafama pues kasi usun kuttura gaige na tapega gi kombiñiente-ta kulan sinahguan jam papaya yan mañga gi halom taru.

■■■

Lastromu: Sige ha fatta un` prohimu na muma`gasgue` gi este yan ayu na offisiu. `Nai ma-arastreha tinatteña, ti masoda` lastruña gi puestu `nai ha faman maisague`.

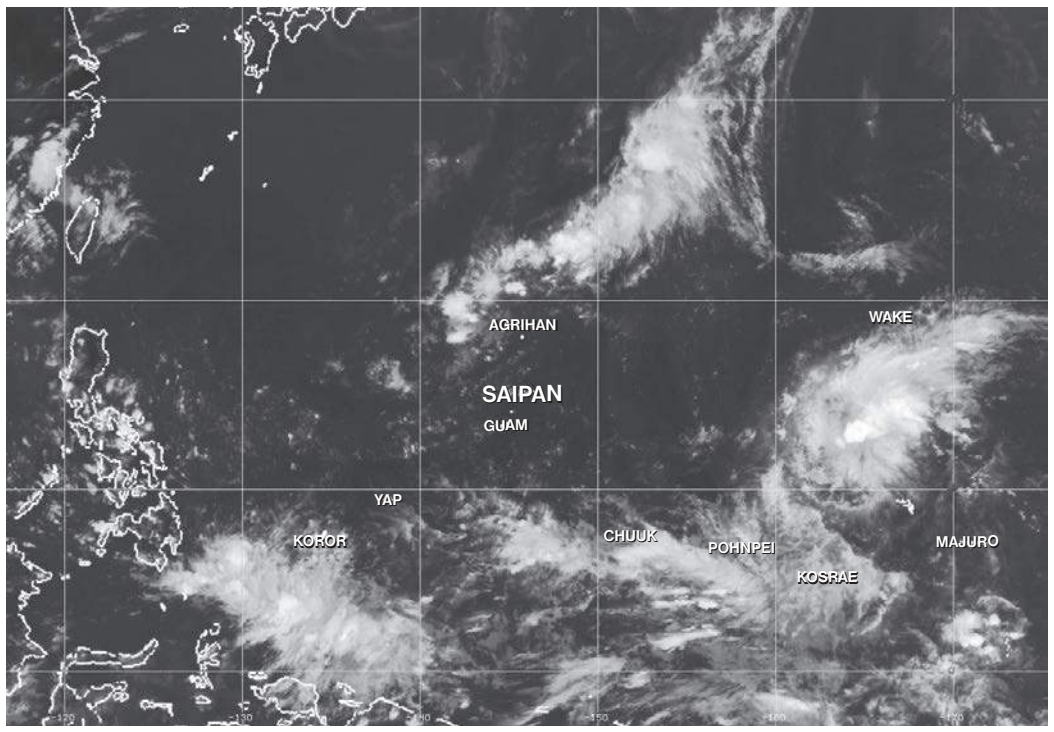
I finapos tautau kulan deñgdeñg gi halom hatdin. Manu `nai malofan siempre mamega lastru gi santatte. Ayu `nai hatdineru ha li`e` dispues na guaha manbisita. Lau siempre u anog klaru lastroña. Ti siña na para un` soplu ginen haf` lastromu. Haf` i kontribusion-mu gi ma-abiban finu` Chamorro gi enteru iya Marianas? Guaha tinige`mu benefisiosu gi este na puntu?

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with solated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches eastward from 10N130E curving south to a weak circulation southwest of Yap then north of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae through a circulation then heads through the date line at 6N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near Koror and south of Yap within 175 miles of a line from 8N130E to EQ140E southwest of Chuuk between 6N and 8N from 146E to 151E and south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and over Kosrae between 2N and 7N from 164E to 167E. A tropical disturbance centered just south of Wake Island is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 11N and 19N from 163E to 171E. A stationary front extends southwestward through 25N155E to end at 19N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Minami Tori Shima and the northern CNMI within 100 miles of a line from 25N153E to 19N142E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲56	▼43
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼78
London	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼51
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲53	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲93	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼77
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼50
Pusan	Sunny	▲91	▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼74
Salem	Sunny	▲100	▼62
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲90	▼75
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲92	▼77

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:38 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
8:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:36 PM	4:26 AM
Friday	6:31 PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	7:24 PM	6:27 AM
Sunday	8:15 PM	7:28 AM
Monday	9:05 PM	8:28 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

COP breaks ground on public facility at Unai Dangkulo

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort officials joined CNMI officials Tuesday morning during the groundbreaking for the renovation and construction of a public facility at Unai Dangkulo.

The groundbreaking ceremony kick-starts the E Land-owned golf resort's new construction of an access road, an additional pavilion, and a new public parking lot. The project includes the renovation of the public restroom and two other pavilions.

Matthew Park, Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer and Kensington Saipan Hotel general manager, said it was E Land's responsibility to make a contribution to the local community when they acquired COP.

Park said a total of three months will be needed to complete the project. He didn't commit, however, to a fixed date as to when the construction and renovation will start or end.

"Our efforts to revive this area [Unai Dangkulo] was to make a contribution to the community and our efforts to revive it would have not been possible without the help of the CNMI government," Park said.

He promised that E Land would continue a wide range of projects as well as new developments that will contribute to the community.

Govt involvement

Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada said his office was involved in the design process of the public facilities.

"We worked with the Department of Land and Natural Resources that included the design for this project and permitting fees," Ada said.

DLNR Secretary Richard Seman said historical and cultural artifacts in the area are his department's primary concern.

"It has an existing permit that allows them to do what they need to do here, only now it's E Land and not Suwaso, Inc. …As far as permit is, the government's concern is the artifacts from the Spanish galleon trade," he said.

In the 1600s one of the grand Spanish merchant ships that carried loads of silks, rugs, porcelain, ivory, jewels, gold, and others sunk at the southernmost area of Saipan. According to Seman, some of the artifacts were salvaged in the Unai Dangkulo area but not all were recovered and whatever is found there belongs to the CNMI government.

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality director Frank Castro gave the notice to proceed for the project on July 14, 2015.

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman also issued out a minor coastal permit to DLNR for the improvement project.

Aside from the pavilions, barbecue grills, tables, and walkways are also in the works.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said the new construction will also help the tourism industry, especially after the beach is enhanced and improved.

"I just hope that it gets maintained properly, not get vandalized, and hopefully I get E Land to put a gate to close the area during the wee hours so people don't venture here," Guerrero said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMDC membership meeting today

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. wishes to inform its members and fellow NMDs that there will be a general membership meeting today, July 30, 2015, starting at 6:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. ***(PR)***

CNMI Women's Association membership meeting today

The 2015 CNMI Women's Association general membership meeting will be held today, July 30, 6pm at the Carolinian Utt next to the Carolinian Affairs Office and Garapan Community Development Center. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting on Aug. 5 at Sandcastle

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting next month will be held on Aug. 5 at Sandcastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The luncheon begins at 11:30am with the meeting portion starting promptly at noon. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan will address the membership regarding the federal efforts for the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Cleanup brigade set for Aug. 1 at Tank Beach

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Tank Beach on Saturday, Aug, 1, 2015, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our mom, Chasmyn Toni Santos, for completing her master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Grand Canyon University! We love you mom and we are so proud of you! Greetings come from Kyu and Chummy. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Timberley Lmel Theodore Ngewaki! Enjoy your day and may the rich Lord continue to bless you! Greetings come from your loving family Tyrell, Tyler, Tyreeze, and Tyeisha.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI postal history featured in Rotary meeting

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Postage stamps and how they can show a place's history were the talking points in the Rotary Club's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday.

The club's guest speaker for their weekly meeting was Steven Connor, founder of the new Mariana Stamp and Coin Club.

In Connor's presentation, postage stamps could be seen as little trinkets of history that traveled from one place to another.

"[Stamps] are little artifacts that are part of history, that some information can be gleaned from these relics," Connor said. "You're able to see these and understand a little bit more of history by looking at this. It's a different layer of history that you can look at."

Using old stamps to illustrate his point, Connor showed the relationship the CNMI has had with the Philippines, Spain, Germany, Japan, and the U.S. throughout its colonial history, through World War II until the islands became a trust territory of the Pacific and when it became a Commonwealth.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Steven Connor, founder of the new Mariana Stamp and Coin Club, speaks of the CNMI's postal history during the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Governments can fight, governments can have war but the postmasters are dedicated to helping keep the lines of communication," he said.

At the time, stamps were accorded a measure of respect, he said. "Stamps were looked at like somebody's flag. Don't trample on my stamp, don't trample on my flag."

One stamp even showed an original figure of Pagan before a part of it was "shaved off" by the Japanese who wanted to build an airfield.

Connor also showed how stamps were able to display the culture back then as well as the mood of the times toward the colonists.

The presentation, which is part of Connor's paper on the postal history of the CNMI, is a preview of his presentation at the 3rd Annual Marianas History Conference that will be held in September.

"We're promoting the premise that [stamps] can be a primary tool for historical research," Connor said.

He is inviting members of the public who are interested in stamps and coins to attend their organization's first meeting on Aug. 1, 10am at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

Stamp collecting is called philately; coin collecting is called numismatics.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM

JAYSON CAMACHO

Host families, members of the 2015 Liberation Royal Court, and Japanese students from Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai join in a group photo shortly after arriving at the Saipan International Airport for a cultural and homestay program on Saipan. A total of five host families are hosting the students and the students will leave Aug. 4. Saipan Mayor's Office will be conducting outdoor activities for the KSKK group during their visit to Saipan.

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Fiesta hosts 3rd Family Fun Day for its employees

Employees line up to partake of the delicious dishes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A glorious Sunday morning was the setting for Fiesta Resort & Spa's 3rd Annual Family Fun Day at the resort's Dinner Show venue last July 19.

Employees and their immediate family members once again were able to use the resort's swimming pool and experience a day of being guests at the resort instead of being employees. General manager Abner Acosta greeted the employees as they arrived and later gave a short welcoming remarks, thanking them for their hard work and dedication and that having the Family Fun Day at the resort's facility was Fiesta's way of giving gratitude to its employees who continue to make Fiesta Resort a success.

Employees were treated to barbecue, popcorn, and nachos throughout the day. The employees who were on-duty were not left out as they were able to join their families on their lunch break. Hapi the Clown graced the occasion and led parlor games for parents and their children. There were adult parlor games for the employees as well and all participants were provided prizes.

While feasting on the delicious menu, the employees and their families were entertained by Jackson Cruz with a dance number, the Full Forth Band of Hopwood, and Prinze the Magician. The Family Fun Day was also the venue for the awarding of "Hosts of the 2nd Quarter" outstanding employees and July birthday celebrants. Acosta presented these employees with certificates of recognition, cash awards, and gift certificates, and thanked them for a job well done and unwavering service.

'My family and I always join every family fun day because my kids can swim in the pool," said an employee. Another employee cited how much fun his kids had swimming in the resort's pool, which is usually accessible only to in-house guests. He also remarked that, although he was on duty, he was still able to eat with his family on his lunch break and even won a great raffle prize.

The fun-filled day with employees and their families at the resort ended at 4pm and employees are already looking forward to yet another year of family fun day in 2016! ***(PR)***

Hosts of the 2nd Quarter Outstanding Employees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The July birthday celebrants.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Honesty Awardees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 'Prize Ladies'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Acosta family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dressing the Mummy game.

Prinze the Magician entertains the kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Asia

Malaysian PM axes deputy, attorney general amid fund scandal

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, stung by allegations that he received some $700 million in government money, on Tuesday fired the attorney general who had been investigating him and a deputy who has been among his most prominent critics.

Najib is under increasing pressure over leaked confidential documents that allegedly show the money, from state investment fund 1MDB, went into his personal accounts.

Najib announced over national television that his deputy Muhyiddin Yassin will be replaced by Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, a Cabinet member who will also retain his home minister portfolio. Earlier Tuesday, the government announced it had terminated the services of Attorney General Abdul Gani Patail.

Najib said he also dropped four other ministers to strengthen his administration and ensure they can "work as a team."

"I can accept differences in opinion and criticisms as part of the decision-making process, but these differences in opinion should not be made in an open forum that can affect public perception of the government and the country," he said.

AP

Recently sacked Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin waves at supporters as he arrives for a press conference in his residence outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

Critics slammed Gani's abrupt removal and cast it as an attempt by Najib to avoid prosecution.

"The purge commences. The Attorney-General is replaced. Any flicker of hope that the prime minister might be charged for misdeeds is extinguished," opposition lawmaker Tony Pua tweeted.

"The fact that he is not answering the allegations but instead removed his critics is not a good sign," said Wan Saiful Wan Jan, who heads the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs think tank. "It shows deep desperation on Najib's side."

Malaysia's Bar Council, which represents more than 7,000 lawyers, condemned the "ostensible interference" in the investigations into 1MDB and warned it could cripple the probe and render it a "meaningless charade."

Muhyiddin, the deputy, has been critical of the government's handling of 1MDB's massive debt and on Sunday night repeated his call for Najib to explain the alleged funds transfer.

Najib said, "The decision to replace Muhyiddin was a very difficult one, but I had to do it so that a strong team can move forward."

Gani was replaced by a Federal Court judge, Mohamed Apandi Ali, months before the attorney general had been due to retire in October. The government said Gani was leaving for health reasons, but when contacted by Malay Mail Online, Gani said he had not been aware of the decision.

Gani confirmed earlier this month that he had received documents from investigators that linked Najib and 1MDB. The existence of the documents, which allegedly show $700 million was wired from entities linked to 1MDB into Najib's accounts, were first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH top court orders govt to defend Japan drills

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court ordered the government Tuesday to defend the legality of recent joint military exercises with Japan following a petition by a left-wing political party. The Alliance of Concern Teachers party's petition questions the constitutionality of the exercises, which were held without a treaty being approved by the Senate. Supreme Court spokesman Theodore Te said the magistrates ordered President Benigno Aquino III's office, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and other officials to comment on the petition and explain why the exercises were constitutional. The party has asked the court to prohibit such exercises by issuing a temporary restraining order or a writ of preliminary injunction.

Bangladesh upholds opposition leader's death sentence

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh's Supreme Court has upheld the death sentence for an influential opposition leader and an aide to a former prime minister for his role in mass killings during the country's independence war against Pakistan in 1971. Chief Justice S.K. Sinha delivered the verdict Wednesday against Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, a former aide to ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The ruling clears the way for the man's execution unless he gets presidential clemency. Bangladesh says Pakistani soldiers, aided by local collaborators, killed 3 million people and raped 200,000 women during the nine-month war that ended in December 1971. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina set up the tribunal in 2010.

Myanmar police seize over 26 million stimulant tablets

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Police in Myanmar's largest city said Tuesday that they've seized more than 26 million stimulant tablets with a street value of over $100 million, in what appears to be the country's biggest such seizure ever. Counter-narcotics police officer Myint Aung said officers seized 26.7 million stimulant tablets on Sunday after an inspection of a parked vehicle in Yangon's northern suburbs. The pills, identified by police as amphetamine hydrochloride, were packed in 89 bags, he told The Associated Press. Myanmar is also a major source of methamphetamine, a related stimulant, much of which is trafficked to neighboring Thailand, where abuse of the drug is rampant. Police said stimulant pills are worth about 5,000 kyat ($4) apiece, so the total street value of the haul would be 133.5 million kyat ($107 million).

Pakistan to host second round of Kabul-Taliban talks

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan is finalizing preparations to host the second round of landmark peace talks between Afghan government officials and the Taliban later this week, two Pakistani officials said Tuesday.

The talks are meant to find a way to end the 14-year war in Afghanistan, which has been a priority for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani since he took office last year. Ghani has sought Pakistan's help in bringing the Taliban to the negotiations, since Islamabad is believed to wield influence over the group.

Islamabad hosted the first round of the official, face-to-face discussions earlier this month. The meeting was supervised by U.S. and Chinese representatives and ended with both sides agreeing to meet again.

Islamabad is now finalizing preparations for the next round on Friday, the two Pakistani officials confirmed to The Associated Press.

"Yes, the second round ... will take place in Pakistan on July 31," said one of them, a senior government official familiar with the peace process. The second, a security official, confirmed the date. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because arrangements were still being finalized.

Afghan government officials refused to provide details of the location or timing of the next round of peace talks, saying delegations have not yet been finalized.

"Nothing has yet been decided, the location could be Pakistan, or China or one of the Central Asian countries," one Afghan official said on Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media about the issue.

Last week, two members of the Afghan High Peace Council, the body charged with negotiating a settlement with the Taliban insurgents, said China was the most likely venue for the second round of talks. At the time, both also said the talks would take place on July 30.

The two officials could not be reached to reconcile the different reports.

Last week, Afghan lawmaker Shazada Shahid, a spokesman for the High Peace Council, said at least one woman will be on the government team. He said the Taliban had made several demands of their own in the talks so far, including the removal of Taliban names from U.N. and U.S. blacklists, which would enable their members to travel internationally.

These are long-standing demands by the Taliban, along with the establishment of a permanent office, probably in a Gulf state, that would give them legitimacy as a political organization.

Malibu it's not, but North Korea seen as possible surf spot

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Here's a new take on gnarly.

A pro surfer who coaches the Chinese National Surf Team and a tourism agency based in New Jersey plan a surfing expedition and training camp in North Korea, which has pristine beaches, virgin waves and, they say, the potential to become an international wave-riding destination.

Nik Zanella, a native of Italy who along with coaching Chinese surfers is a representative of the International Surfing Association, said the decision to hold the surfing camp for a small group of North Koreans and foreign tourists along North Korea's east coast follows a year of studying the area to assess wave and weather conditions.

"The DPRK will not become the next Malibu, but it receives enough swells to sustain a vast surf community," he told AP in an email Tuesday, referring to North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "Our goal is to evaluate the resources and make them available to local surfers in a sustainable and safe way. We are not there to simply go surf, brag about it and then bail."

The expedition, scheduled for September, has been approved by the North Korean government, which is eager to boost its small but developing tourism sector.

Andrea Lee, CEO of Uri Tours, which is organizing the excursion, said it will be used to map out the coastline for prime surfing locations, take risk assessments and develop evacuation and safety plans. Though most North Koreans don't have the means or leisure time to devote themselves to recreational hobbies, she said the government is keen on getting the mapping data and on drawing tourists.

"We want to open the DPRK as a surfing destination on a larger scale," she said. "The hope is to create a foundation and to pave the way for future surfers."

World

Pollard to be freed; US analyst spied for Israel

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jonathan Pollard, the former Navy intelligence analyst whose conviction of spying for Israel stoked fierce international passions, has been granted parole and will be released from prison in November after nearly 30 years.

The decision to free Pollard from his life sentence, announced Tuesday by his lawyers and then confirmed by the Justice Department, caps an extraordinary espionage case that spurred decades of legal and diplomatic wrangling. Critics have condemned the American as a traitor who betrayed his country for money and disclosed damaging secrets, while supporters have argued that he was punished excessively given that he spied for a U.S. ally.

Pollard is due to be released on Nov. 21, three decades after he was arrested while trying to gain asylum at the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Though American Jews have wrestled with how much leniency he should get, Israelis have long campaigned for his freedom. The government there has recognized him as an Israeli agent and granted him citizenship, even as recent American presidents have resisted efforts to free him early.

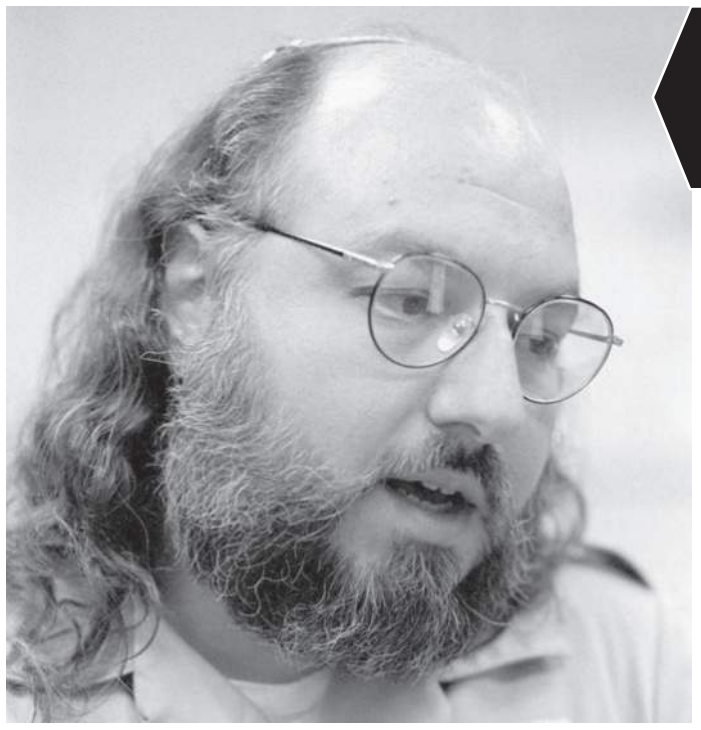
"We are looking forward to his release," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement Tuesday.

White House officials strongly denied that the release was in any way tied to the nuclear deal recently reached with Iran, or that it was intended as a concession to Israel. Secretary of State John Kerry, who testified before Congress on the nuclear deal on Tuesday, told reporters Pollard's parole was "not at all" connected. And Israeli officials have said that while they would welcome the release, it would not ease their opposition to the Iran agreement.

The U.S. had previously dangled the prospect of his release, including during Israel-Palestinian talks last year, when the Obama administration considered the possibility of freeing Pollard early as part of a package of incentives to keep Israel at the negotiating table. As it turned out, the peace effort collapsed and nothing came of the proposal.

The Justice Department, for its part, noted that federal sentencing rules in place at the time of Pollard's prosecution entitled him to parole after serving 30 years of his life sentence.

Department lawyers did not contest his parole bid, which was granted following a hearing this month before the U.S. Parole Commission that took into account Pollard's behavior in prison and whether he was likely to commit new crimes if released.



AP
In this May 15, 1998 file photo, Jonathan Pollard speaks during an interview in a conference room at the Federal Correction Institution in Butner, N.C.

Though parolees are required for five years after their release to get government permission for foreign travel, Pollard's lawyers say they intend to ask President Barack Obama to grant him clemency as well as authority to leave the United States and move to Israel immediately.

But the White House quickly shot down that prospect, saying Pollard had committed "very serious crimes" and would serve his sentence under the law.

"The president has no intention of altering the terms of Mr. Pollard's parole," said Alistair Baskey, a spokesman for the White House's National Security Council.

Said Netanyahu, in Israel, "Throughout his time in prison, I consistently raised the issue of his release in my meetings and conversations with the leadership of successive U.S. administrations."

"Immense joy," Israeli Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked wrote on her Facebook page in Hebrew, adding that "thirty years of suffering will come to an end this November."

She echoed statements of American officials in saying that he was being released because of the justice system and not because of the Iran deal.

Pollard, 60, has faced health problems in recent years. He is being held in the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, and his lawyers said they have secured housing and a job for him in New York once he is released. They said he was "looking forward to being reunited with his beloved wife, Esther."

The Pollard prosecution represented one of the most sensational and divisive spy cases in recent American history. His supporters maintain that he provided information critical to Israel's security interests at a time when the country was under threat from its Middle East neighbors, but prosecutors and many in the U.S. intelligence community have long maintained that his disclosure of voluminous classified documents constituted a criminal breach on par with that of America's most infamous spies.

The U.S. has said Pollard provided reams of sensitive and classified information to Israel, including about radar-jamming techniques and the electronic capabilities of nations hostile to Israel, including Saudi Arabia.

A court statement from then-Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Pollard did "irrevocable" damage to the U.S. and had provided the Israelis with many U.S. classified publications and classified messages and cables. Portions of the Weinberger document that have been declassified state that Pollard admitted passing to his Israeli contacts "an incredibly large quantity of classified documents" and that U.S. troops could be endangered because of the theft.

Libya court sentences Gadhafi son to death for 2011 killings

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi's son and onetime heir apparent was convicted and sentenced to death on Tuesday by a court in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, on charges of murder and inciting genocide during the country's 2011 uprising.

But Seif al-Islam Gadhafi is unlikely to face the firing squad anytime soon. The sentence was handed down in absentia because he remains in the hands of a militia in western Libya that has refused to hand him over for the past four years—yet another sign of the country's bitter fragmentation since his father's fall from power.

The uncertainty surrounding Seif al-Islam's fate underlines both the weakness of the courts and the general chaos this North African nation has descended into, split between rival militias and governments while being threatened by an affiliate of the extremist Islamic State group, which has benefited from the turmoil and captured some areas in Libya.

The same Tripoli court on Tuesday also sentenced to death eight other former regime officials, including former Libyan spy chief, Abdullah al-Senoussi, who is in custody in the Libyan capital, as well as foreign intelligence chief Abuzed Omar-Dorda and Gadhafi's former prime minister, Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi. The rulings can be appealed, and a defense lawyer in the case, Ali Aldaa, said he would challenge it before the Libyan Supreme Court. Another lawyer, Hussien Al-Sherif, described the verdicts as "very harsh."

"We did not expect the sentences to be like this for the defendants, and there will be an appeal to the Supreme Court," he said.

In London, al-Senoussi's wife, Fatma Farkash, asserted that the Tripoli court didn't have the authority to hand down the death sentence.

"It was a big shock for me and my children. We were not expecting this. It was an ugly verdict," she said. "Libya doesn't have a functioning state, and it was a closed hearing."

U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said the trial was "undermined by serious due process violations," and called on the Libyan Supreme Court to independently review the verdict.

Fighting between Turkey and Kurds escalate amid NATO unease

ISTANBUL (AP)—Fighting between the Turkish military and Kurdish rebels escalated Tuesday amid signs of unease from NATO allies attending an emergency meeting about Turkey's conflicts with the Islamic State group and the Kurds.

On a violent day, Turkish fighter jets pounded rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK after soldiers were fired on with heavy weaponry in Sirnak province, according to a military statement. Turkish soldiers also came under attack in two other incidents.

Meanwhile, NATO allies met in a rare emergency meeting at Turkey's request and proclaimed "strong solidarity" with the country's fight against the Islamic State group.

"The security of the alliance is indivisible," ambassadors from all 28 NATO nations declared in a joint statement after the meeting.

But a NATO official said members also used the closed-door meeting to call on Turkey not to use excessive force in reaction to terror attacks, while urging it to continue peace efforts with representatives of the Kurdish minority. The official was not authorized to speak on the record and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The special session of the alliance's main political decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council, was held at Turkey's request under a clause of NATO's founding treaty that empowers member countries to seek consultations if they believe their security, territorial integrity or political independence is at risk.

It was called after Turkish warplanes last week started striking militant targets in Syria in response to an Islamic State group suicide bombing in southern Turkey that left 32 people dead, and another IS attack on Turkish forces, which killed a soldier.

But in a series of cross-border strikes, Turkey has also targeted Kurdish fighters affiliated with forces battling IS in Syria and Iraq.

The Syrian Kurds have been among the most effective ground forces in the fight against IS and have been backed by U.S.-led airstrikes, but Turkey fears a revival of the Kurdish insurgency in pursuit of an independent state.

The spike in violence in recent days has prompted concerns that a promising peace process between Turkey and Kurdish rebels is falling beyond repair.

WORLD BRIEFS

Obama draws criticism for saying Ethiopia is democratic

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Some African activists have greeted President Barack Obama's remarks that Ethiopia has a democratically elected government with scorn and concern. Obama made the comment on Monday during a news conference with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia, whose ruling party won every seat in parliament in May elections. On Tuesday, Obama urged African leaders to uphold democratic rights in a speech delivered from the headquarters of the African Union before he departed Ethiopia to end a two-nation African trip that included a stop in Kenya. "Yesterday he was a tricky and mischievous politician," Yonathan Tesfaye, a spokesman for Ethiopia's opposition Blue party, said in a reference to Obama's comment that Ethiopia's government was democratically elected.

Nigerian leader visits Cameroon as Boko Haram attacks

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's new President Muhammadu Buhari is set to make his first official visit to one-time enemy Cameroon Wednesday to ease tensions and bolster support for a multinational army to fight the Boko Haram uprising that has spilled across borders. The long-anticipated diplomacy comes eight weeks after Buhari visited neighboring Niger and Chad. All three countries are contributing to the force. Hard feelings date back to a 1980s land dispute. More recently, Nigeria accused Cameroon of doing little to prevent Boko Haram from using their territory as a refuge. Cameroon saw Buhari's failure to visit earlier as a snub, and its president, Paul Biya, didn't attend his May inauguration.

Rio de Janeiro prisons seek to protect transgender inmates

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—When Estefanie Ferraz went to prison, she had been living as a woman for around a decade, had undergone more than half a dozen plastic surgeries including breast and cheek implants to enhance her feminine looks, and was saving up for a sex change operation. But her identification card said she was a man. The transgender 29-year-old was sent to a prison for men in Rio de Janeiro where, she says, she was stripped of her female name and shorn of her long locks and dignity. Brazil's penitentiaries are notorious for rampant overcrowding and violence endured by all inmates. But advocates say few prisoners are as vulnerable as transvestites and transgender people, who are often singled out for taunting and physical and sexual abuse.

Environment

US man accused in African lion death thought hunt was legal

BLOOMINGTON, Minnesota (AP)—An avid American hunter accused of illegally killing a protected lion in Zimbabwe said Tuesday that he thought everything about his trip was legal and wasn't aware of the animal's status "until the end of the hunt."

Walter Palmer, who has a felony record in the U.S. related to shooting a black bear in Wisconsin, released his statement through a public relations firm after being identified by Zimbabwean authorities as the American involved in the July hunt. They said he is being sought on poaching charges, but Palmer said he hasn't heard from U.S. or Zimbabwean authorities.

"I had no idea that the lion I took was a known, local favorite, was collared and part of a study until the end of the hunt. I relied on the expertise of my local professional guides to ensure a legal hunt," said Palmer, a dentist who lives in the Minneapolis suburb of Eden Prairie.

According to U.S. court records, Palmer pleaded guilty in 2008 to making false statements to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about a black bear he fatally shot in western Wisconsin. Palmer had a permit to hunt but shot the animal outside the authorized zone in 2006, then tried to pass it off as being killed elsewhere, according to court documents. He was given one year probation and fined nearly $3,000.

Doug Kelley, a former federal prosecutor and Palmer's attorney in the bear case, was unavailable for immediate comment Tuesday, according to his assistant.

AP

In this frame grab taken from a November 2012 video made available by Paula French, a well-known, protected lion known as Cecil strolls around in Hwange National Park, in Hwange, Zimbabwe.

Palmer was identified by the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force, the Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe and police as the American facing poaching charges for the crossbow killing of Cecil, a well-known and protected lion. The animal's death has outraged animal conservationists and others.

Local authorities in Zimbabwe allege the lion was lured from a protected area and killed in early July. Zimbabwean conservationists said the American allegedly paid $50,000 for the trip.

The lion's death has outraged animal conservationists and others, including U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, a Minnesota Democrat. In a statement late Tuesday, the congresswoman called for an investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to see whether any U.S. laws were violated.

Palmer's whereabouts were unknown Tuesday. No one answered the door at his home, and a woman who came out of his dental office in nearby Bloomington said he wasn't there and wasn't taking patients Tuesday. Phone calls to listed home numbers went unanswered.

Palmer has several hunts on record with the Pope and Young Club, where archers register big game taken in North America for posterity, said Glenn Hisey, the club's director of records. Hisey said he didn't have immediate access to records showing the types and number of animals killed by Palmer, but noted that club records involve legal hunts "taken under our rules of fair chase."

Although African game wouldn't be eligible, Hisey said he alerted the group's board that Palmer's ethics were being called into question. He said Palmer's domestic records could be jeopardized if he's found to have done something illegal abroad.

A Facebook page for Palmer's Minnesota dental practice was taken offline Tuesday after users flooded it with comments condemning Palmer's involvement in the hunt. Hundreds of similar comments inundated a page for his dental practice on the review platform Yelp, which prior to Tuesday had only three comments.

Palmer is properly licensed and able to practice in the state, according to the Minnesota Board of Dentistry. Board records show that Palmer was the subject of a sexual harassment complaint settled in 2006, with Palmer admitting no wrongdoing and agreeing to pay a former receptionist more than $127,000.

US carbon dioxide emissions fell during the recession

By DEBORAH NETBURN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The economic recession of 2008-2009 may have hurt your bank account, but new analysis suggests it was good for the planet.

It turns out that when people don't have the cash to purchase new things it can have a significant effect on the amount of carbon dioxide that gets pumped into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels, according to a study in Nature Communications.

Not that anyone is suggesting that a sluggish economy is the only way to reduce emissions.

"Saying we should we have a recession to save the environment is a flippant conclusion," said Klaus Hubacek, a professor of geographical sciences at the University of Maryland who worked on the paper. "But if we want to manage emissions, we need to think of different ways to grow the economy."

The team did not set out to prove that consumption patterns were the main drivers of carbon dioxide emissions.

"The extent to which the per-capita consumption was the driver for C02 decrease right after the recession was a big surprise to us," he said. "We weren't looking for it."

Rather, Hubacek and his co-authors wanted to know exactly what factors played the most important role in an unprecedented drop in U.S. carbon emissions between 2007 and 2013. After decades of steady increases, CO2 emissions dropped by 11 percent between those years.

The significant drop coincided with new innovations in fracking, which led the U.S. to shift from using coal for electricity production and toward lower-carbon natural gas instead. Some institutions have concluded that the shift from coal to gas was responsible for the drop in carbon dioxide emissions, but the new report finds that is not the case.

The most substantial decrease in emissions (9.9 percent) occurred between 2007 and 2009, the researchers found. During that time, 53 percent of the emissions reduction was due to a steep decline in the volume of consumed goods. Another 18 percent to 25 percent of the drop was related to a decrease in capital expenditures and exported goods. Changes to the fuel mix of the energy sector was responsible for 17 percent of the initial drop.

The researchers conclude that the change in fuel mix is responsible for a relatively small portion of the change.

"The real heroes are consuming less and using energy more efficiently," said Steven Davis, assistant professor of Earth system science at the University of California, Irvine and a co-author of the study, in a statement.

Dan Kammen, a professor in the Energy and Resources Group at UC Berkeley who was not involved with the study, said the findings were sound.

"The study looks accurate and it is not surprising given the lack of large-scale clean energy deployment in the first part of that time-window," he said. "Now, going forward, things are likely to look quite different given the dramatic ramp-up of the clean energy industry."

Rising temperatures due to climate change are latest threat to bumblebees

By SASHA HARRIS-LOVETT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Bumblebees already have to contend with lethal infections, deadly pesticides and habitat loss due to agriculture and urban development. A new study shows they have another cause for worry: climate change.

Over the last century, warming temperatures have noticeably shrunk the areas where bumblebees live in North America and Europe, researchers report in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

The overall effect of climate change is to "crush bumblebee species in a kind of climate vise," said Jeremy Kerr, an ecologist at the University of Ottawa and lead author of the study.

Kerr and his colleagues examined more than 420,000 bumblebee museum specimens collected from 1901 to 2010. The specimens represented 67 species of bees that lived in North America and Europe. Using records of the year and location where each bee was gathered, the researchers mapped out the historic ranges of the pollinator populations.

To see how the ranges changed over time, they created maps for a baseline period of 1901 to 1974 and for three recent periods with higher global temperatures: 1975 to 1986, 1987 to 1998 and 1999 to 2010. They also examined the extreme high and low temperatures that bees faced in each of the periods.

Across both Europe and North America, the southern ranges for bumblebees moved northward by an average of 185 miles between 1901 and 2010, the researchers reported.

Temperatures in these vacated zones all rose, though by different amounts in different areas over that time period, Kerr said. But it's not just general warming that's a problem—bumblebees are especially vulnerable to extreme heat events, which have become more frequent as a result of climate change.

"Bumblebee populations have disappeared during heat waves in places like southern Europe," Kerr said. "Even though the average temperatures might not be terribly high, these transient but intense heat waves can sometimes push bumblebee species past conditions they can tolerate."

As the southern end of their habitat became inhospitable, the habitable zone on the northern end should have expanded. For instance, the coldest temperatures bumblebees experienced between 1999 and 2010 were 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit (2.5 degrees Celsius) warmer than between 1901 and 1974.

However, the bees did not adapt by moving farther north, as butterflies and some other species have done, Kerr said.

Researchers investigated other possible explanations for the bumblebees' shrinking range, like increased use of neonicotinoid pesticides and land-use change. Though both are grave threats to bee species, they aren't responsible for the range losses seen in the study, researchers said. The intensity of land use is different in Canada than in northern Europe, but the invisible northern barrier was seen in both places, the researchers wrote. Also, bumblebee ranges started to contract before neonicotinoid pesticides were widely used, they noted.

Life & Style

Dr. Seuss book explores what came before 'One Fish Two Fish'

HANOVER, N.H. (AP)—Move over mockingbirds and watchmen. There's a new Yent in a tent in town.

Dr. Seuss' new book, "What Pet Should I Get?", features the same siblings seen in his 1960 classic "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish." The book went on sale Tuesday, two weeks after the release of Harper Lee's long-awaited second novel, "Go Set a Watchman."

But unlike some fans of Lee's 1960 book, "To Kill a Mockingbird," those who love Dr. Seuss are unlikely to be disappointed, says Donald Pease, author of two books about Seuss and an English professor at the author's alma mater, Dartmouth College.

"It's a classic Dr. Seuss treatment," he said. "What it does is it brings a child, actually a brother and sister, into relationship by way of a problem almost every child addresses in her or his life: What pet should I get?"

As the siblings ponder which animal to acquire—Dog? Cat? Fish?—they start to imagine more fanciful creatures: the aforementioned Yent, or a "thing on a string." All the while, they face the constraints of what their parents would allow. The final illustration, which shows two eyes poking out of a basket, leaves readers guessing about their choice.

Pease suggests Seuss didn't publish the book because he used it as a jumping-off point for "One Fish Two Fish" instead.

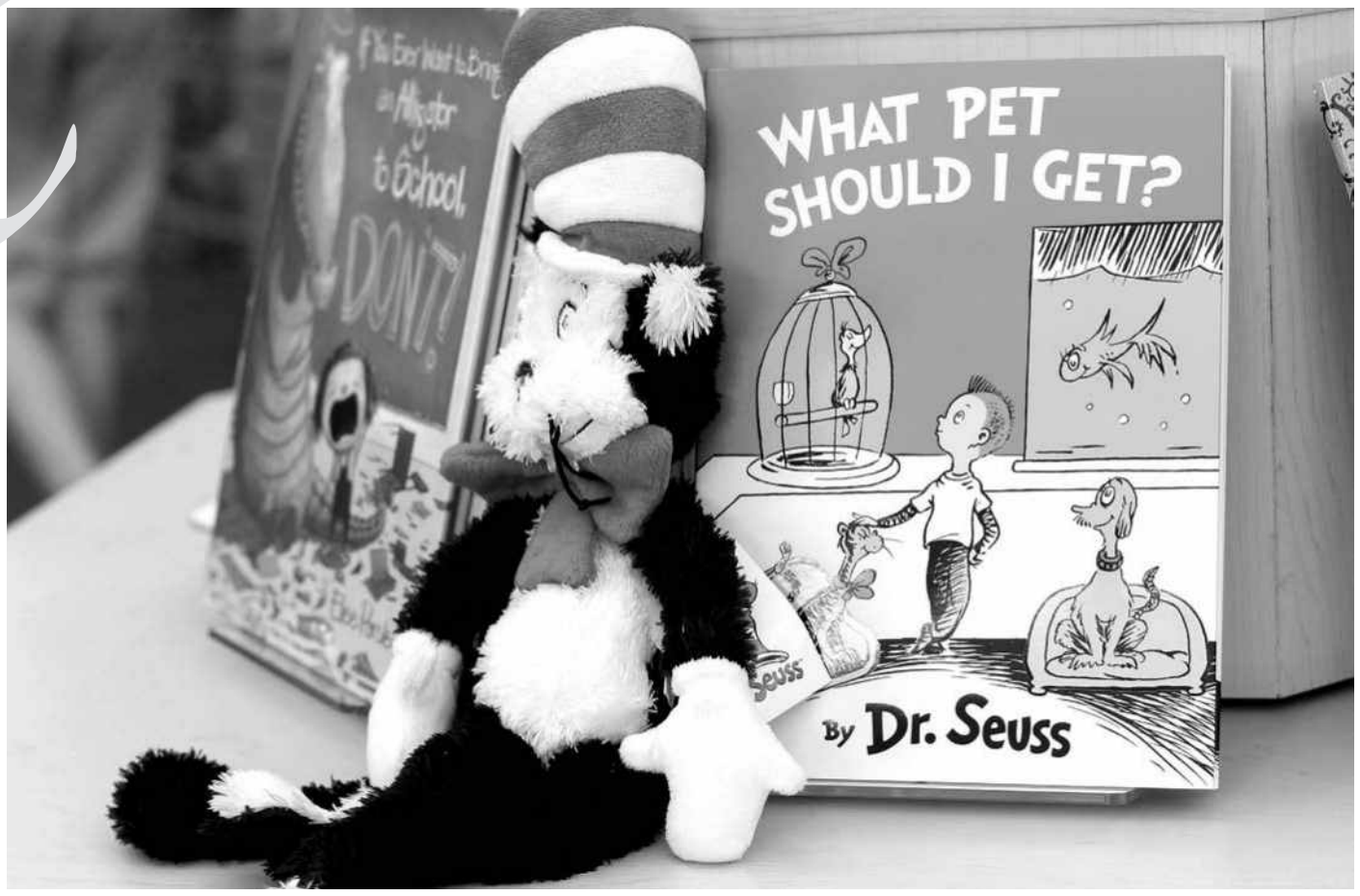
"In a sense, the pet shop is giving the children access to the difference between the world of pets they can encounter in a pet shop, and the world of creatures they can only enter encounter by opening the book equivalent of a pet shop: the archive of Dr. Seuss's children's books," he said.

For example, in "One Fish Two Fish," the children have a Gox, a Gack, and a Wump with one hump.

Seuss, whose real name was Theodor Geisel, grew up in Massachusetts, but it was at Dartmouth that he found his passion for writing and drawing.

"I began to get it through my skull that words and pictures were Yin and Yang. I began thinking that words and pictures, married, might possibly produce a progeny more interesting than either parent," he told the Dartmouth alumni magazine in 1975. "It took me almost a quarter of a century to find the proper way to get my words and pictures married. At Dartmouth I couldn't even get them engaged."

The Ivy League school is also where the Seuss pseudonym was born. When Seuss was a senior, he and his friends were caught drinking alcohol in his room during Prohibition. ("We had a pint of gin for 10 people, so that proves nobody was really drinking," he recalled.) Part of his punishment included being booted off the staff of the campus humor magazine, but he got around the sanction by signing his cartoons with his mother's maiden name and his own middle name: Seuss.



AP

A plush "Cat in the Hat" toy is displayed next to "What Pet Should I Get?," the latest book by Dr. Seuss, on Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at a bookstore in Concord, N.H.

Gay accuser questions Cosby's ability to 'read' sexual cues

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A lawyer for Bill Cosby's first accuser on Tuesday questioned his self-described ability to "read" people's sexual cues given that her client is gay.

Andrea Constand, employed by the Temple University women's basketball team when she met Cosby in the early 2000s, was dating a woman around that time, according to court filings unsealed this month. She considered Cosby to be a friend and mentor.

"Despite his talent for interpreting female reactions to him, he did not realize plaintiff was gay until the police told him," lawyer Dolores Troiani wrote in a motion Tuesday involving the secrecy clause underpinning their 2006 settlement.

Constand's lawsuit inspired a cascade of similar accusations that Cosby drugged and molested women throughout his 50-plus years as an entertainer and champion of family values.

The 78-year-old Cosby, in a deposition released this month, said he had romantic feelings for Constand the moment he spotted her at Temple, where he served on the board of trustees. Cosby's lawyers didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday and haven't returned repeated messages left this month.

The two sides have renewed their battle a decade after they settled Constand's sexual-battery and defamation lawsuit. Each side accuses the other of breaking the confidentiality clause through public comments and court filings. Cosby wants a judge to impose sanctions. Constand has asked for the freedom to speak out.

Constand, then about 30, accused Cosby of drugging and sexually assaulting her at his Philadelphia-area home in January 2004. Cosby said he considered their "spooning" on his couch consensual. He said the same of his "rendezvous" and affairs with other accusers.

"I think that I'm a pretty decent reader of people and their emotions in these romantic sexual things, whatever you want to call them," Cosby said in his 2006 deposition, which was made public this month by a court reporting service.

According to the deposition, Constand said she went to Cosby's home to discuss her next career move. He offered her pills for her reported stress. She thought she was taking an herbal medication. Cosby told police he had given her Benadryl, but Constand believed it was something stronger that left her semiconscious. She woke up on his couch at 4 a.m. feeling sore, with her clothes disheveled.

Cosby said he saw her before she left and did not sense anything amiss.

"I walk out. She does not look angry. She does not say to me, don't ever do that again. She doesn't walk out with an attitude of a huff," he said.

Cosby also acknowledged that he had obtained quaaludes in the 1970s to give to women he hoped to seduce but said they took them knowingly. His lawyers this month said that he was "one of the many people who introduced quaaludes into their consensual sex life in the 1970s" and that that doesn't make him a rapist.

Troiani said her client never took a quaalade or a similar drug.

She argued that Cosby has hired a team of lawyers and publicists to defend the various accusations, while Constand, now a physical therapist in the Canadian province of Ontario, has been forced to remain silent.

The latest addition to Cosby's publicity team is Monique Pressley, a lawyer, ordained minister and motivational speaker who made a round of television appearances this month defending Cosby. She said his deposition shows no evidence he committed a crime.

Cosby's lawyers, for their part, insist Constand broke the confidentiality clause with her brief comments to a Toronto newspaper and tweets July 6—the day a judge unsealed excerpts of Cosby's deposition—that said "Yes!" and "Sir!" She also tweeted this spring: "I won't go away, there is a lot more I will say."

Troiani said Cosby's "narcissistic view of the world" led him to believe that Constand's "every tweet must be about him." She suggested the tweets were instead about gay marriage.

Oculus debuts virtual reality film 'Henry'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Oculus is hedging its bets that an adorable critter named Henry can help convince consumers—and Hollywood—about the viability of virtual reality as a storytelling medium.

The VR company, which Facebook acquired for nearly $2 billion last year, debuted a 10-minute narrative experience starring the lonely hedgehog Henry during an invite-only event Tuesday at a private mansion in Beverly Hills.

Inside, guests donned consumer versions of the Oculus Rift headset and were offered a 360-degree glimpse into Henry's cartoony home as his birthday wish magically came to life.

"Henry" is the second film from Oculus Story Studio, an internal production company that Oculus established last year after Facebook bought the VR company. "Lost," the studio's first short film, debuted at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year.

"The goal with 'Henry' and these short films isn't to be an introduction to virtual reality," said Oculus founder Palmer Luckey. "We're trying to build things with Oculus Story Studio that other people can learn from and build better content from as a result."

Luckey added that Oculus isn't attempting to create a studio to rival Hollywood's existing players. Instead, with "Henry" and Oculus' other work, the company is seeking to demonstrate VR's capability and inspire studios and production companies to create content beyond promotional efforts connected to other films and entertainment franchises.

"In a perfect word, we'll have all the major studios making tons of VR content because they're making tons of money off of it," said Luckey. "That would be much better for us than having to hold up the entire VR marketplace with our own content. Nintendo managed to do that with their games, but it's really rough. It'll be much healthier to have a diverse ecosystem."

"Henry" is an entirely passive experience that doesn't require viewers to use a controller, other than tilting their head to see the action inside Henry's tree-trunk abode.

AP

This photo provided by Oculus shows a scene from the short animation film, "Henry." Oculus' second virtual reality film premiered Tuesday, July 28, 2015, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

'The Book of Mormon' gets rousing reception in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The biting satirical musical that mocks Mormons received a rousing reception Tuesday in its first-ever showing in the heart of Mormonlandia, kicking off a sold-out, two-week run at a Salt Lake City theater.

The audience cheered wildly as the Tony Award-winning "The Book of Mormon" began, with the show's gleefully naive missionaries singing in front of a backdrop of the Salt Lake City skyline and Mormon temple that resembles the real one just two blocks away.

They laughed loudly as the jokes played out, many touching on Mormon lingo and culture that is intimately familiar in Utah. Some of the most raucous applause came during a scene when an African character sings, "Salt Lake City, the most perfect place on Earth." At the conclusion, attendees at the Capitol Theater crowd gave the actors a standing ovation.

Despite the jokes and jabs that create a caricature of Mormon beliefs, there were no protests outside and no mass walkouts during opening night. The playbill did include three advertisements from the Mormon church, including a picture of a smiling man with the words, "You've seen the play, now read the book."

The audience included a cross-section of non-Mormons, ex-Mormons and some practicing Latter-day Saints like Omar Ledezma Soto, a student at Mormon-owned BYU. He drew attention by coming dressed as a missionary, wearing a white shirt, tie and the name tag he wore when he was an actual missionary. He said he knew other BYU students who were planning to attend other showings.

"The humor is crude and offensive, but I don't think it's meant to attack or belittle Mormons," said Soto. "It's just a means to talk about the silly situations we put ourselves in. That's why I think this is so funny and lethargic and freeing to me."

AP
Brittany Lueders, from left, Diane Orchard and Sue Carter pose for a photograph before entering the Capitol Theatre to see "The Book of Mormon" musical Tuesday, July 28, 2015, in Salt Lake City.

The show's creators, Trey Parker and Matt Stone of "South Park" fame, weren't at the show but told The Associated Press this week that bringing the show to Salt Lake City feels like validation and also brings the creative process full circle.

"It feels like a really cool thing that it finally gets to play Salt Lake City," Stone said. "It just feels very much like it's coming home."

They were hopeful that the show's jokes would get even bigger laughs in a crowd likely to be more familiar with Mormon culture than most audiences. "It's like playing 'Fiddler on the Roof' to a bunch of Jews," Parker said.

That certainly seemed to be the case, as audience howled at jokes about Mormon beliefs, practices and idiosyncrasies. "It pokes fun without being mean," said Eric Kriss, of Draper, after the show.

Two hours before the opening, about 100 people lined up in a ticket lottery, a group that included ex-Mormon Brandon Haden. The 26-year-old theater teacher, hoped to see the show again after attending a production in Los Angeles, but he said his parents have no plans to attend. (Prices range from $26-$160, not including fees).

"My parents said they wouldn't come see something that makes fun of their religion, which I totally get," Haden said, adding, "I don't think they make any like sacred, doctrinal jokes, they just poke fun at the stereotypes."

He didn't win tickets, but 24-year-old Kate Hickam did.

Hickam, who isn't Mormon, had seen the show in Denver but was anxious to watch the hometown crowd's reaction. "They have so many inside jokes that Utahans will appreciate," Hickam said.

Leaders with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have been quiet about the musical over the years, repeating a one-line statement that has now become synonymous with the show. "The production may attempt to entertain audiences for an evening, but the Book of Mormon as a volume of scripture will change people's lives forever by bringing them closer to Christ," it reads.

Some curious Latter-day Saints may go to see what all the fuss is about during the run in Salt Lake City, but most will probably turn the other cheek and let the state's non-Mormons revel in the fun, said Scott Gordon, president of a volunteer organization that supports the church called FairMormon.

Gordon said he has mixed feelings about a musical. It has brought extra attention to Mormonism, and most Latter-day Saints can take some ribbing. But he said, "I just wish it didn't go so far."

Parker and Stone said they've never received any blowback from Mormon leaders or church members, which they say proves a theme that carries through the musical about Mormons being so darn polite all the time. In a way, they said they think church members might have appreciated the extra attention.

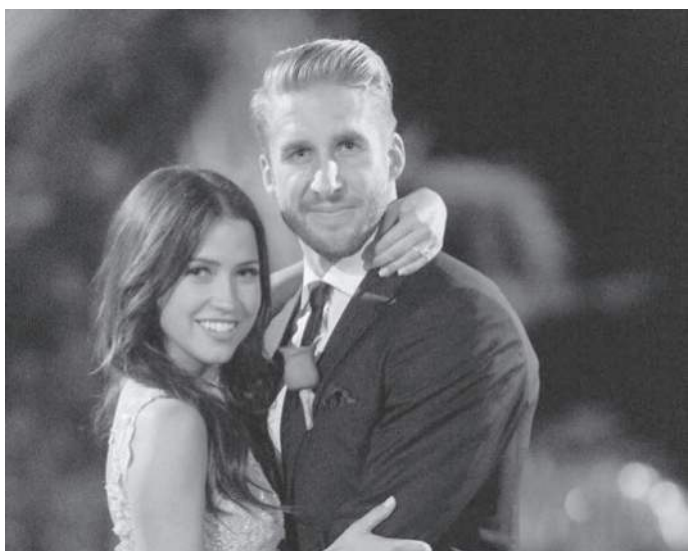
Kaitlyn Bristowe and Shawn Booth ready to be a normal couple

NEW YORK (AP)—Now that they're finally engaged, Kaitlyn Bristowe and Shawn Booth are ready to go on their first real-world date.

The bachelorette and her chosen fiancé are now able to live their love away from TV cameras after Monday night's "The Bachelorette" finale on ABC. Bristowe chose the 29-year-old personal trainer as her one true love.

Bristowe said the couple will go on their first real date Tuesday night. "We were counting down the Mondays so we could get to this point and now it's here so we are going to enjoy it," Booth said.

Twenty-five other men competed to woo the 30-year-old former dance instructor in the 11th season of the reality dating competition.



AP
In this image released by ABC, Kaitlyn Bristowe, left, and Shawn Booth appear on the season finale of "The Bachelorette."

She accepted Booth's marriage proposal during the finale saying, "I never want you to question what we have ever again because I am completely yours."

It was speculated that Booth had won after a Snapchat video of him and Bristowe in bed was accidently shared and quickly deleted in June. Bristowe said it was a regrettable mistake to spoil the show for viewers but it was a smaller ordeal than they expected.

"We just kind of skimmed over it and didn't acknowledge it," Bristowe said.

Many bachelor and bachelorette couples have broken up in the pressure of the public eye, but Booth said: "We are not worried about it at all and we don't think about the other couples at all or anything like that. We're just focused on our relationship and what we have and we feel so strong about it and we're so excited to start moving forward."

Bristowe faced public criticism after she confessed to Booth that she had sexual relations with runner-up Nick Viall during the competition. She has previously said she's not ashamed of her action because she is an adult.

Family pet-sitter helps herself to homeowner's possessions

DEAR ABBY: A trusted and beloved family member who takes care of my cats—and therefore has a key to my house—has been stealing things like cleaning supplies, knickknacks, family pictures, etc. Most of them have little monetary value. But imagine my surprise when I spotted some of my missing seashell collection in her fish tank!

Naturally, I can't accuse her of taking things like seashells that anyone can pick up free on the beach, but I select ones with distinct markings, which is why I know they are mine. It's frustrating to run out of toothpaste and find that the spare tube I just bought is missing. It's not like she doesn't have the money to buy her own.

She does so much for me and my kids. Should I just continue to ignore it?

SEASHELLS BY THE SEASHORE

DEAR S.B.T.S.: Your family member may have a touch of kleptomania—a compulsion to steal—or perhaps she takes the items because she feels entitled to "payment" for the favors she does for you.

If you confront her, she will probably deny it. This is not to imply that you must continue putting up with it until she takes something with greater sentimental (or tangible) value. Ask her to return your key "because you have made other arrangements to care for your cats," or change your locks. Then follow through with someone who won't take advantage of your trust.

DEAR ABBY: My wife is a big woman (not fat). She's an athlete and quite strong. We both enjoy wrestling. We are evenly matched and do it often.

Many times she'll pin me down with me on my back, shoulders to the ground. Other times, I do the same to her. The loser takes the winner out to dinner. We enjoy it greatly.

Are we crazy? Are we weird? And most of all, are we alone in this activity?

HAPPY HUSBAND IN FLORIDA

DEAR HAPPY HUSBAND: As long as no one gets hurt, what two consenting adults do is their business. I don't think you are either crazy or weird, nor are you alone in this activity. What you have described as "wrestling" some people call "foreplay."

DEAR ABBY: Can you advise me on how to respond to comments from younger men when I am at dinner or out with friends? I often get "Wow, you are really good looking for an older woman!" which I find vaguely insulting even though they may think it's a compliment. I'm in good shape for my age (48), but my husband agrees it's rude.

I'm at a loss for a snappy comeback and usually so embarrassed that I just turn away and pretend that I didn't hear. Am I overly sensitive? Should I be thanking them? That doesn't feel right. Any witty responses you think would be good?

SPEECHLESS IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SPEECHLESS: A left-handed compliment is one that has two meanings—one of which is not flattering to the recipient. Because you find it offensive, say, "I may look 'older' to you, but I'm not so old I consider that to be a compliment."

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

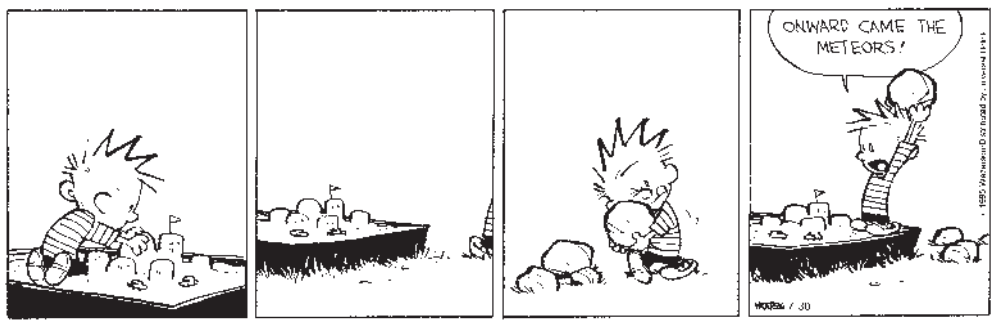
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

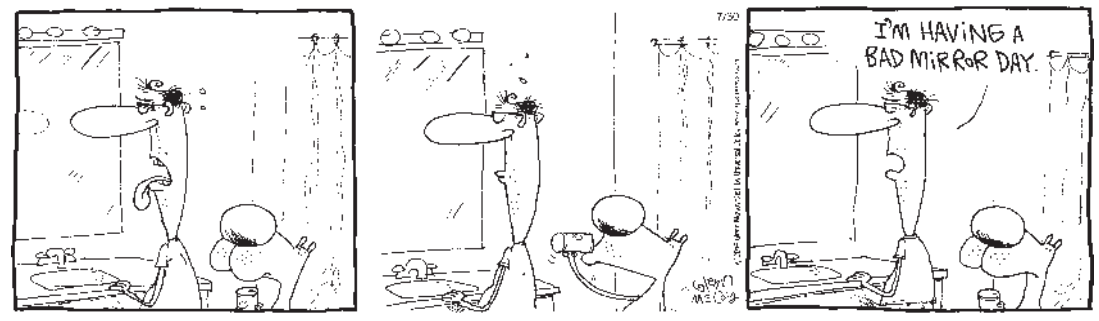
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, TREVOR. YOU EVER THINK ABOUT WHAT COMES... YOU KNOW... AFTER THIS?
WOW. THE AFTERLIFE? THAT'S SOME HEAVY TALK FOR A FISHING TRIP.
BUT I GUESS THE QUIET MAKES US ALL LOOK INWARD AND PONDER THE BIG QUESTIONS.
I MEANT "DO WE GRAB A BURGER OR SOME PIZZA?"
WOW! I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT ANALOGY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Elmer, to Bugs
4 Tumult
8 Tiers
12 Gabor or Peron
13 Relaxation
14 Send forth
15 "The island of romance," in song
17 Baseball team
18 Do sums
19 "Rock-a-Bye Baby" site
21 Russian wolfhound
24 Tend the lawn
25 Mound stat
26 "— Miniver"
28 Cheesy chip
32 Dracula's usual target
34 Conger, e.g.
36 Reclined
37 Clan emblem
39 — -tac-toe
41 Sleuth
42 Addressee
44 Procession
46 Constricting snakes
50 Moment
51 Timber wolf
52 Merchandisers' mailings
56 By word of mouth
57 First victim
58 Bumped into
59 Existed
60 Samples of wordplay
61 Lad

DOWN
1 Year-end abbr.
2 Eventual aves
3 Waterfall
4 Hardly ever
5 — chi
6 "It — Fair"
7 Get more ammo
8 Cancellation's opposite
9 Leave out
10 Drunkard
11 Put one's foot down?
16 Woodshaping tool
20 A billion years
21 Crooked
22 Sandwich treat
23 Anger
27 Prepared
29 Underground cemetery
30 Wasted no time
31 Erstwhile
33 Peeper's place?
35 Pitcher part
38 Dr. Seuss' "Mr. Brown Can —! Can You?"
40 Cellist Pablo
43 Open a bottle
45 Cath. or Prot.
46 Clear of snow
47 Bygone times
48 Ski lift
49 Moviedom's "Elephant Boy"
53 Sawbuck
54 Earth (Pref.)
55 Pigs' digs

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	S	K		F	A	F	M		D	A	M	E
R	U	N		O	G	E	E		O	D	O	R
I	C	E		D	O	G	E	A	T	D	O	G
A	H	E	A	D			T	I	C			
			B	E	E	S		L	O	B	B	Y
U	N	D	E	R	D	O	G		M	I	R	E
H	I	E		S	J	F	H	A		H	I	G
O	G	L	C		C	-	I	L	I	D	O	G
S	H	E	L	F		S	P	I	N			
			A	D	O			M	A	G	I	C
D	O	G	P	A	D	D	L	E		O	D	E
I	R	I	S		D	O	I	N		O	L	D
G	E	N	E		S	E	A	T		D	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 7-30

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18			■	19		20				
21	22				23	■	24			■	■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28		29	30	31
32			33	■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40	■	41		
■	■	■	42		43	■	44		45			
46	47	48				49	■	50			■	■
51				■	52		53				54	55
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hope Solo, 34; Hilary Swank, 41; Laurence Fishburne, 54; Arnold Schwarzenegger, 68.

Happy Birthday: Your knowledge and expertise will be required if you want to make a wise decision or move this year. Don't act on hearsay or assumptions. It's important not to be impulsive or to rely on others. Develop and follow through with your plans and make your dreams come true by doing the work yourself. Your numbers are 6, 14, 26, 29, 34, 45, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Express yourself through your actions and how you present who you are and what you have to offer, and you will receive interesting responses with promising implications. Show off in a charming and playful manner. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your life simple and refrain from getting into a competition with someone you know won't play fairly. Refrain from overdoing it in any way and focus on subtle personal changes that will enhance your appeal and your love life.✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do your own thing and refuse to let anyone put the weight of the world on your shoulders. Someone will give you false information in order to make you feel guilty. Don't be burdened by someone else's troubles. Focus on getting ahead. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do whatever it takes to keep the peace and ensure your relationships with the people in your life who are reliable. Whether it's a business or personal connection, working toward a common goal will bring you closer together. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Explore new avenues, but don't make an impulsive change that can have a negative influence on your financial situation. It's important to be diplomatic and carry out your duties responsibly to avoid a lapse in your income. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Socialize with the people you find inspiring, which will help you develop your ideas and creative plans. Your patience and understanding will be vital if you want to finish what you start. Doing things with younger or older people is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Gauge your time and don't make promises you cannot fulfill. Developing new friendships or reconnecting with people from your past is encouraged. Collaboration will bring about positive changes to the way you do things. Don't let emotional family problems hold you back. ✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Enjoy a hobby or pastime that will ease your stress and bring you in contact with people who share your common interests, and you will be enlightened by what transpires. Love is in the stars, and romance will improve your life. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Handle financial matters responsibly. You stand to make gains if you are willing to accept the inevitable and take advantage of an opportunity that will lead you in a different direction. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to tried-and-true methods and you will avoid going down a path that will be difficult to reverse. Don't be tempted by what others do or give in to the pressure put on you by your peers. Do what suits you best. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Problems will arise if you deal with institutions or someone in an authoritative position. A misunderstanding will result in a conflict that will waste valuable time. Look for a suitable solution that allows you to avoid interference and accomplish your goal. ✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take on a creative project that encourages you to develop new skills or that will push you to a higher professional level. Romance and celebrations are favored and will help to smooth out any problems you face with someone important. 3 stars Birthday Baby: You are practical, relentless and precise. You are imaginative and dexterous.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		5				2	
4								1
	8			1			6	
				7				5
		2				4		
6				4				
	5			6			8	
3								6
	7				3		1	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	4	8	6	5	7	1	2
5	8	2	1	3	7	9	6	4
7	1	6	2	9	4	8	5	3
4	7	5	3	1	8	6	2	9
6	9	8	5	4	2	3	7	1
3	2	1	9	7	6	4	8	5
8	4	3	7	2	1	5	9	6
2	6	7	4	5	9	1	3	8
1	5	9	6	8	3	2	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOPSCOTCH **Solution: 4 letters**

S	R	T	H	O	W	T	H	R	E	E	L	G	C	P
E	T	E	R	C	N	O	C	T	U	R	N	S	O	A
W	D	R	D	A	T	E	V	I	F	I	S	E	U	S
A	R	I	A	R	T	I	A	S	P	R	I	V	R	S
R	O	E	S	I	O	S	P	P	E	G	X	E	S	Q
D	C	C	C	N	G	B	O	K	H	M	B	N	E	U
N	K	N	O	T	I	H	A	T	J	M	A	N	(N)	A
U	S	A	U	T	A	E	T	C	U	N	I	G	(E)	R
O	T	L	R	R	N	N	H	N	M	N	S	N	(T)	E
R	O	A	T	S	E	I	G	O	P	D	C	A	S	S
G	N	B	E	M	L	K	A	L	M	W	H	M	R	T
Y	E	N	E	D	R	S	R	P	E	E	O	O	I	O
A	I	V	R	U	L	E	S	A	I	S	O	R	F	P
L	A	E	O	G	N	I	V	O	M	K	L	A	H	C
P	N	F	S	E	O	T	P	I	T	E	S	O	L	T

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Balance, Border, Chalk, Children, Concrete, Course, Court, Draw, Eight, First, Five, Four, Games, Home, Hopping, Inside, Jump, Lines, Lose, Marker, Moving, Nine, Numbers, Paint, Pass, Pavement, Pitch, Playground, Rectangles, Rocks, Roman, Rules, School, Seven, Six, Skip, Sneakers, Squares, Start, Stone, Stop, Straight, Ten, Three, Throw, Tiptoes, Toss, Turn, Two

Yesterday's Answer: Dock

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Position: **Loan Specialist I**
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(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, July 30, 2015, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than July 30, 2015, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

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Roger Goodell upholds Tom Brady's 4-game suspension

NEW YORK (AP)—The commissioner pointed to concealed evidence. The team described it as a folly. And the agent added sham to the lexicon of "Deflategate."

Then the players' union said it would take it all to court.

Tom Brady's four-game suspension for his role in using underinflated footballs during the AFC championship game was upheld Tuesday by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Goodell said the New England quarterback told an assistant to destroy Brady's cellphone on or just before March 6. Brady met with independent investigator Ted Wells on that day.

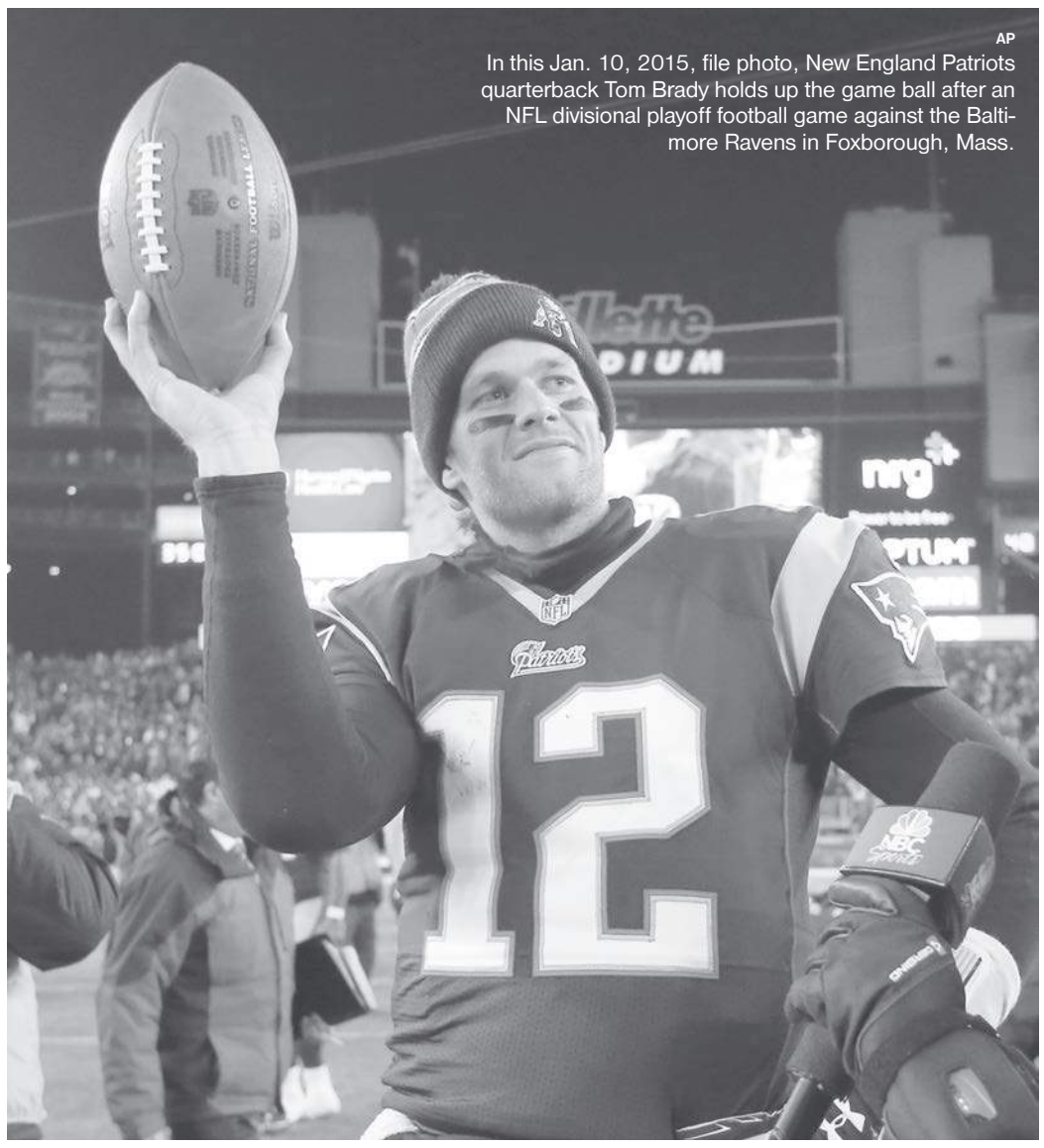
"He did so even though he was aware that the investigators had requested access to text messages and other electronic information that had been stored on that phone," Goodell said in his decision.

"During the four months that the cellphone was in use, Brady had exchanged nearly 10,000 text messages, none of which can now be retrieved from that device."

Calling the appeal process "a sham," Brady's agent, Don Yee, said Goodell "failed to ensure a fair process" in upholding the quarterback's four-game suspension.

The Patriots used the words "folly" and "incomprehensible" in their statement, then said they "unequivocally believe in and support Tom Brady."

Brady acknowledged in his testimony he was aware of investigators' request for information from the cellphone before he had it destroyed, the appeal decision said.



AP

In this Jan. 10, 2015, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady holds up the game ball after an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Foxborough, Mass.

After releasing the report in May, Wells said he had told Brady and Yee he did not need to see his phone and would have accepted a list of communications.

Wells' investigation had no subpoena power and Brady was under no legal obligation to cooperate.

The NFL had some messages from Brady sent to an equipment manager's phone, but investigators wanted to see if Brady's cellphone had other messages related to footballs.

The four-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback was suspended by NFL executive Troy Vincent in May following the Wells report. The Patriots were fined $1 million and docked a pair of draft picks. The team didn't appeal its penalty, but Brady appealed.

The NFL Players Association said in a statement on Tuesday that it would appeal in court.

"The NFL resorted to a nebulous standard of `general awareness' to predicate a legally unjustified punishment," the union said, adding, "the NFL violated the plain meaning of the collective bargaining agreement."

Moments after announcing Goodell's decision, the league filed action in U.S. District Court in New York against the union, saying the NFL commissioner has the right under the labor agreement to hand out such discipline "for conduct that he determines is detrimental to the integrity of, or public confidence in, the game of professional football."

Goodell mentioned exactly that in the conclusion of his appeal decision.

"Especially in light of the new evidence introduced at the hearing—evidence demonstrating that he arranged for the destruction of potentially relevant evidence that had been specifically requested by the investigators—my findings and conclusions have not changed in a manner that would benefit Mr. Brady," Goodell said.

But Yee argued that Brady's side was given only four hours to present a defense, and when he asked for documents from Wells, that request was rejected on the basis of privilege.

"We therefore had no idea as to what Wells found from other witnesses, nor did we know what those other witnesses said," Yee said.

Yee adds the electronic data presented in Brady's defense was ignored during the appeal hearing.

Brady and the Patriots have denied knowingly using deflated footballs in the AFC title game win over Indianapolis. The Patriots went on to beat Seattle in the Super Bowl and Brady was the MVP. In its statement, the team said "We cannot comprehend the league's position in this matter."

The NFL announced in late January that Wells would head an investigation into New England's use of underinflated balls against the Colts. More than three months later, the 243-page Wells report was issued, saying it was "more probable than not" that Brady was "at least generally aware" that footballs he used were improperly deflated by team personnel.

Brady appealed and the union asked Goodell to recuse himself from hearing the appeal because he could not be impartial and might be called as a witness. But Goodell said it was his responsibility to oversee the hearing to protect the integrity of the league.

Scientific arguments were a major part of Brady's defense. Brady's lawyers tried to shoot down the findings of an independent firm hired to provide scientific analysis of the air pressure inside the footballs used by the Patriots and Colts.

Brady, who turns 38 on Aug. 3, took nearly every snap last season. But he'll miss the first four games this season unless the case goes to court. Jimmy Garoppolo, a second-round pick in 2014, would replace Brady, the two-time NFL MVP and three-time Super Bowl MVP.

New England hosts Pittsburgh on Sept. 10 to open the regular season. It then goes to Buffalo, hosts Jacksonville, has a bye, and is at Dallas in the last game of Brady's suspension. Brady would return against, yes, the Colts on Oct. 18 in Indianapolis.

Chiefs' Berry to practice 8 months after cancer diagnosis

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP)—Eight months after getting the stunning news that he had cancer, Chiefs Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry was expected back on the practice field Wednesday, a day after doctors gave him the all-clear.

The Chiefs medical staff and his own doctors put him through a battery of tests Tuesday and the team later announced he would join quarterbacks, rookies and select injured players for the first practice of training camp on the campus of Missouri Western State University. Berry was scheduled to speak to reporters after practice.

Berry was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease last December, shortly after complaining of pain in his chest following a game against Oakland. He was treated at Emory University in Atlanta almost immediately, and went through the final round of treatment in June.

"He's kept himself in good shape, believe it or not," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said earlier Tuesday, before Berry was cleared to return. "He's really done a good job there."

Hodgkin's disease, also called Hodgkin's lymphoma, is a cancer of the immune system that makes up about 8 percent of all diagnosed lymphomas. According to the National Cancer Institute, more than 9,000 people will be diagnosed with it in the United States this year.

The survival rate in 1960 was about 40 percent, but advancements in medicine combined with earlier detections have increased the survival rate to more than 80 percent.

According to Dr. Christopher Flowers, who directs the lymphoma program at Emory's Winship Cancer Institute, Berry was scheduled to undergo "standard chemotherapy approaches." Beyond that, Berry and the team have been reluctant to reveal details of his treatment.

While questions remain about Berry's fitness and whether he will be ready for the season opener in September, it would not be unprecedented for an athlete to return at a high level.

AP

In this Nov. 16, 2014, file photo, Kansas City Chiefs strong safety Eric Berry enters the field prior to an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Kansas City, Mo.

Several NFL players tweeted their good wishes after the news was announced.

Cardinals defensive back Patrick Peterson wrote: "True warrior!! Welcome back E!"

Peterson's coach, Bruce Arians wrote: "So happy to hear Eric Berry is back and cleared for practice. All the best. (hash) BerryStrong"

Hall of Fame hockey player Mario Lemieux was diagnosed with the same disease in 1993, went through treatment and ultimately finished his career with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2008 and was successfully treated with chemotherapy, and was later voted to his first All-Star game.

While football became an afterthought as Berry battled cancer, his absence from the field was still noteworthy for a team that just missed reaching the playoffs last season.

The Chiefs' defense was among the league's best against the pass, but it struggled mightily to defend the run. The 26-year-old Berry happens to be one of the best run-stopping safeties in the game, a hard hitter who fearlessly crashes the line of scrimmage.

The fifth overall pick in the 2010 draft, Berry has played his entire career in Kansas City, becoming one of the most popular players on the team. He missed all of the 2011 season with a torn knee ligament, but returned to start all 16 games the following year. He has started 53 games in all, piling up 323 tackles with 5 1/2 sacks and eight interceptions.

His return, regardless of how much he'll be able to participate, will certainly boost some spirits in Kansas City. Earlier in the day, Reid announced that Pro Bowl defensive tackle Dontari Poe had surgery on his back last week and would miss all of training camp.

Poe was diagnosed with a herniated disc. He had surgery on July 15.

"He stands a reasonable chance (of returning) in the early part of the season. Whether that's the beginning or somewhere early in the season for his return, you just have to see and see how things recover, how he recovers there," Reid said.

Syndergaard dominates, Mets hit 2 homers to beat Padres

NEW YORK (AP)—Noah Syndergaard retired his first 18 batters in the rookie's latest overpowering performance, and the New York Mets got two-run homers from Lucas Duda and Curtis Granderson to beat the San Diego Padres 4-0 Tuesday night.

Firing his fastball up to 98 mph, Syndergaard (5-5) struck out nine, walked none and allowed only three singles in eight innings. The big right-hander outpitched James Shields and avenged a 7-2 loss at San Diego on June 2.

Making his 14th major league start, Syndergaard lost his bid for a perfect game when Will Venable lined a clean single up the middle on the first pitch of the seventh, prompting a warm ovation from the Citi Field crowd of 26,034.

Yangervis Solarte followed with an infield single and Venable went to third on an error by shortstop Ruben Tejada, who made a sliding stop but a wild flip that rolled away from second baseman Daniel Murphy.

That's when Syndergaard buckled down to preserve a 2-0 lead. He retired No. 3 hitter Matt Kemp on a popup and got cleanup man Justin Upton to ground into an inning-ending double play.

AP

New York Mets starting pitcher Noah Syndergaard (34) delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres in New York, Tuesday, July 28, 2015.

Royals 2, Indians 1

In Indianapolis, Eric Hosmer's homer with two outs in the ninth inning lifted Kansas City to a victory over Cleveland, which has lost eight straight at home—its longest home losing streak in 40 years.

Hosmer hit a 3-2 pitch from Trevor Bauer (8-8) over the wall in right for his 11th homer. The shot came one pitch after Indians catcher Roberto Perez threw out Lorenzo Cain trying to steal second. When his homer cleared the wall, Hosmer pointed toward Kansas City's dugout, which was celebrating wildly.

Wade Davis (7-1) pitched a perfect eighth and Greg Holland worked the ninth—getting a nifty groundout, and a game-ending double play—for his 22nd save as the Royals won their fourth straight and 16th in 21 games.

Phillies 3, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Philadelphia won its first game after trading All-Star closer Jonathan Papelbon to Washington, beating Toronto for its ninth victory in 10 games since the All-Star break.

Adam Morgan stopped a four-start winless streak and Cody Asche drove in two runs for the Phillies, who had lost their previous eight games against Toronto.

Morgan (2-2) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings to win for the first time since his major league debut, June 21 against St. Louis.

Blue Jays outfielder Jose Bautista left after an apparent right hamstring injury in the eighth.

All-Star shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, acquired by Toronto from Colorado, was not active and was expected to make his Blue Jays debut on Wednesday.

Jeanmar Gomez pitched the seventh, Luis Garcia worked the eighth and Ken Giles finished for his first save this season.

Marlins 4, Nationals 1

In Miami, Jose Fernandez stayed unbeaten in his home career and Dee Gordon's standup triple led to him scoring the go-ahead run in his return to the lineup and Miami topped Washington.

Martin Prado had three hits while Gordon and Christian Yelich had two each for Miami. Fernandez (4-0) allowed four hits and one run in six innings, improving his record at Marlins Park to 15-0.

Jordan Zimmermann (8-6) gave up eight hits and three runs in six innings. The Nationals lost for the first time in his last seven starts, and saw their lead in the NL East over the New York Mets trimmed to one game.

Bryce Harper reached base for the 24th straight game and 43rd straight on the road for the Nationals, who got Jayson Werth and Ryan Zimmerman back in the lineup after long stints on the disabled list.

Orioles 7, Braves 3

In Baltimore, Chris Davis homered twice and drove in five runs as Baltimore cruised past Atlanta for its fourth straight victory.

Davis hit a three-run shot in the first inning and a two-run drive in the second, both off Julio Teheran (6-6). It was Davis' 10th career multihomer game, the third this season.

Ubaldo Jimenez shook off a miserable start to pitch seven innings for the Orioles, who will seek to complete a three-game sweep on Wednesday night. Baltimore's four-game winning streak follows a 5-15 skid.

Jimenez (8-6) didn't allow a hit after the first inning and retired 18 of the final 20 batters he faced. The right-hander gave up two runs, four hits and three walks to end a run of three successive defeats.

Freddie Freeman homered for the Braves (46-54), who have lost 12 of 16 to fall a season-high eight games under .500.

White Sox 9, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Jose Abreu and Geovany Soto homered and drove in three runs each, and Jeff Samardzija pitched eight strong innings for Chicago in a victory over Boston.

The White Sox quickly spoiled Boston's pregame party for Hall of Fame pitcher Pedro Martinez by scoring five runs in the first inning. Chicago tagged Boston starter Wade Miley for 10 hits and seven runs, all earned, over 5 2/3 innings, and finished with 14 hits.

The last batter Miley (8-9) faced was Abreu, who hit a shot deep to right-center field and sent Mookie Betts tumbling into Boston's bullpen. Betts grabbed the ball on the run and managed to hold on while twisting his body and hitting the wall with his lower back, but dropped it when he landed.

Initially called the third out, umpires reviewed the play for nearly three minutes before overturning the call and allowing Abreu to round the bases for his 16th homer.

Astros 10, Angels 5

In Houston, Jose Altuve had a career-high five RBIs to lead Houston to a victory over Los Angeles in a game between the top teams in the American League West.

Altuve had an RBI single in the second, drove in two runs in the fourth inning and tacked on another two with a double in Houston's four-run sixth to make it 10-5. He finished with three hits.

The Angels played without Mike Trout, who missed the game with an injured left wrist. He's listed as day to day.

Houston starter Collin McHugh (12-5) allowed seven hits and five runs with four walks in five innings for his third straight win.

C.J. Wilson (8-8) yielded six hits and six runs in four-plus innings.

Athletics 2, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Sonny Gray pitched a masterful three-hitter for his second shutout in July, and Oakland snapped its four-game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles.

Josh Reddick homered, doubled and singled for the last-place A's, who traded Ben Zobrist, Scott Kazmir and closer Tyler Clippard in the past six days.

Oakland won anyway with another gem from Gray (11-4), who struck out nine while cruising through his fourth career shutout. The right-hander didn't allow a runner to reach third base while improving to 8-1 with a 1.64 ERA on the road this season.

Howie Kendrick had two hits and Brett Anderson pitched seven innings of five-hit for the Dodgers, who opened a five-game homestand with their third straight loss.

Reds 4, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Joey Votto hit a three-run home run in support of Mike Leake, and Cincinnati beat St. Louis.

Votto is the hottest hitter in the majors since the All-Star break, batting .561. He also walked, singled and doubled, giving him an NL-leading 37 multihit games.

Leake (9-5) allowed four hits in eight innings to win his fourth straight start. He allowed just two earned runs in his last 30 innings for a 0.60 ERA.

Jaime Garcia (3-4), activated from the 15-day disabled list earlier in the day, made his first start since June 2 and gave up three runs and four hits in six innings. He is 10-3 against the Reds, including 7-1 at home.

Brewers 5, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Wily Peralta returned from the disabled list and shut down one of baseball's hottest teams in his first start in more than two months, pitching Milwaukee past San Francisco to snap the Brewers' three-game losing streak.

Peralta (2-5) retired the initial six batters on the way to winning for the first time since May 6, and he outpitched Matt Cain (2-2) as the Brewers also ended a seven-game skid to San Francisco—matching the longest in the series.

Milwaukee got plenty of contributions from throughout the order on a night slugger Ryan Braun missed his second straight game because of back spasms that came on during pregame warmups Monday and forced a late lineup scratch.

Yankees 21, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Texas, after giving up five runs in the first inning, New York made up for it real fast.

Brendan Ryan doubled twice with three RBIs and Didi Gregorius had a bases-loaded triple in New York's 11-run second inning as the Yankees overcame Texas.

Chris Young started the big inning with a double and scored the first of his two runs when Chase Headley had the first of his two RBI singles in the frame. An inning later, Young hit his fourth career grand slam.

A day after his 40th birthday, Alex Rodriguez had an RBI double off the top of the 14-foot wall in left field to make it 6-5 and chase starter Martin Perez (0-2).

The AL East-leading Yankees won for the eighth time in nine games, and are majors-best 16-5 in July—matching their most wins in a month since August 2013.

Diamondbacks 8, Mariners 4

In Seattle, rookie right-hander Zack Godley pitched six strong innings in his second career start, David Peralta had three hits and two RBIs, and Arizona beat Seattle for its fourth consecutive victory.

Godley (2-0), who pitched six shutout innings to win his debut last week, allowed three runs on six hits, including solo homers by Mike Zunino and Nelson Cruz. He struck out four and walked three.

Peralta drove in Arizona's first two runs on a single in the first inning and double in the third. He also singled in the sixth and walked in the seventh.

The Diamondbacks opened a 6-1 lead with a three-run sixth inning, bunching five hits to chase Hisashi Iwakuma (2-2), who was tagged for all six runs on 10 hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Pirates 8, Twins 7

In Minneapolis, Jung Ho Kang hit a tiebreaking home run off the facing off the second deck in left center-field in the ninth inning, lifting the Pittsburgh Pirates over the Minnesota Twins 8-7 Tuesday night.

Kang's sixth home run of the season, a drive off All-Star closer Glen Perkins (0-3), sent Pittsburgh to its fourth win five games.

Perkins has allowed runs in three of four post-All-Star break appearances, blowing a pair of saves.

Pittsburgh All-Star closer Mark Melancon (2-1) retired five batters after the Twins tied the game with a four-run rally in the eighth.

Gregory Polanco hit a three-run double in the eighth and scored on Neil Walker's single for a 7-3 lead, but Minnesota tied the score in the bottom half.

Rockies 7, Cubs 2

In Chicago, D.J. LeMahieu had three hits and scored twice to help Colorado get a win in its first game after trading Troy Tulowitzki.

LeMahieu extended his hitting streak to 18 games with an RBI double as part of a four-run first, tripled in the fifth and singled in the ninth to help Colorado won for the third time in five games.

Daniel Descalso, who started at shortstop in this game, made a leaping grab of a line drive by Kris Bryant to end the seventh inning and strand two runners.

Nolan Arenado had a two-run double and Nick Hundley added a run-scoring groundout in the first against Dallas Beeler (0-1).

Nolan Flande (1-1) got his first career victory, giving up a run and four hits while walking three and striking out four in five innings.

Rays 10, Tigers 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., rookie Curt Casali had three hits and homered twice for the second straight game, leading Tampa Bay to a victory over slumping Detroit.

Casali hit a two-run homer off All-Star David Price (9-4) in the fourth inning and added a solo shot off the former Rays ace for a 5-1 lead in the sixth. He struck out with the bases loaded in the eighth, finishing 3 for 4 with three RBIs on consecutive nights.

Jake Odorizzi (6-6) allowed one run and six hits over six innings to improve to 2-1 since returning from a five-week stint on the disabled list.

Yoenis Cespedes homered for the second straight night for the Tigers, who've lost four of five to start a 10-game game road trip.

Star athletes pitch for Beijing, Almaty ahead of 2022 vote

AP

Song Andong, left, Chinese ice hockey player, poses with Yao Ming, right, retired Chinese professional basketball player during a press conference for Beijing 2022 Olympic bid in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Former NBA star Yao Ming and Sochi Olympic bronze medalist figure skater Denis Ten differ in height by exactly two feet. The towering basketballer is representing Beijing's bid for the 2022 Olympics, and the diminutive figure skater is boosting the bid from Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Size didn't factor into it Wednesday as both did their best to bring more attention to their delegations ahead of Friday's IOC vote for the 2022 Winter Games host city.

On the eighth floor of a downtown hotel, the 7-foot-6 (2.29-meter) Yao talked proudly of all his Summer Games experiences—Olympics in Sydney, Athens and in his home country when Beijing was host in 2008.

Did he ever think he'd be singing the praises of a Winter Olympics bid for Beijing? "Summer or Winter Games, they all represent the Olympic ideals," said Yao, who retired in 2011 after foot injuries cut short his career. "It's the right time, the perfect time for the Olympics to return to Beijing."

The 2010 gold medalist figure skaters Shen Zue and Zhao Hongbo were also brought in by Beijing bid officials to speak in favor of the Chinese capital as the 2022 host, despite criticisms that much of the snow for ski events will have to be artificial and the Alpine venues are spread too far from the city.

Yao later appeared at another news conference with 18-year-old Song Andong, who became the first Chinese-born hockey player to be drafted in the National Hockey League when the New York Islanders took him in the entry draft in June.

"It would be a dream for any athlete to compete in an Olympics in his home country," Song said.

Earlier in the day, the 5-foot-6 (1.68-meter) Ten, who won an Olympic bronze medal last year at the Sochi Games and has a silver medal from the world championships, was among several athletes to plug Almaty.

The 22-year-old Ten was up at 5 a.m. training at an ice rink in a suburban shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur. He said he felt like the practice venue brought him full circle—when he began skating as a child in Almaty, the only place he could train was at a similar shopping mall rink.

"And it wasn't even Olympic sized," Ten said. "Now we have facilities that are among the best in the world."

Whether any Olympic athletes have a chance to experience those facilities in the former Soviet republic will depend on IOC delegates who know very little about Kazakhstan. They know from Almaty's public relations blitz over the past several years that it's a country with a proud winter tradition and one that offers real snow and a compact layout.

Almaty's slogan is "Keeping It Real."

"We have plenty of water, and plenty of snow," Andrey Kryukov, the bid vice-chairman, said Wednesday.

Almaty is the former capital of Kazakhstan, a central Asian country which became independent in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Last week, Human Rights Watch singled out the bid from Kazakhstan. The group issued a 31-page report documenting violence and discrimination that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face in the country.

Human Rights Watch in the past has also criticized Kazakhstan's restrictions on media and assembly, as well as the detention of government critics.

In response to a question about human rights, Kryukov said Kazakhstan was a "young country moving forward to improve our understanding."

DIAZ

From Page 28

Second Game

Docomo 92 – Diaz 32, Sanciangco 12, Manibusan 11, Mendiola 9, Sablan 8, Sanchez 8, White 8, Hayes 4.

TDI 79 – A. Reyes 31, Velasco 29, J. Reyes 11, Arreza 5, Polisco 5.

Scoring by quarters: 22-21, 54-33, 71-56, 92-79.

NMI

From Page 28

"We will be needing each other's support and double all our efforts every game. We must play as a team in order to win as a team," said Sebaklim, who aims to continue working on his stamina and speed in running.

Richard Atalig, who plans to join the U.S. Marines after high school, and Ethan Babauta echoed the Dandan resident Sebaklim's statement.

"Everyone must do his share. Be it in pitching, fielding, hitting, or driving in runs," added the incoming freshman Atalig, who looks up to retired New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter.

Atalig pitched for the Red Sox in the Senior League division of last season's Saipan Little League where he joined teammate Nathan Camacho in topping the pitching category. Atalig did not give up an earned run to clinch the ERA crown, while Camacho was the strikeout king with 57.

"We need to play our best in every game. Do our best in every play since this is the World Series," added Babauta, who aims to go to college after he finishes at Saipan Southern High School.

Roke Tenorio, who had four doubles along with the Comets' Franko Nakamura in Saipan's last Senior League season, said they also needed to adjust in every situation.

"I can contribute in scoring and driving in runs. But we must also learn how to react in situations presented to us, like when to bring the ball or hitting opposite shots," added Tenorio, who hopes to continue playing baseball in college.

Agulto, meanwhile, will try his best to protect the plate and at the same time keep base runners in check.

"Practice will make us better where we can improve on our weaknesses and correct the mistakes that we've been doing."

The Senior League World Series will follow a modified double elimination format where teams need to win two games in order to guarantee advancing to the next round.

If the CNMI wins against Europe-Africa representatives Lazio League of Italy they will face host Maine District 3 on Aug. 3, Monday. A loss would have them playing against the loser of the U.S. Central-Canada match.

JAMES

From Page 28

the fast water made it difficult," he added.

"The movement of the water changes quickly so does the fish. Definitely, we'll be back for next year and fish in the same spot. I consider that my lucky spot."

The *Emmanuel* also placed third in the billfish (129 lbs) and wahoo (26.75 lbs) categories aside from claiming the grand prize and total weight (297 lbs).

Overall, the *Emmanuel* collected $8,900 in cash prizes as they also won the side bet made by 24 boat captains, who staked $100 each to pool together $2,400.

The 942-lb marlin caught by the *Emmanuel* in 2012 shattered the 938 lbs caught by *Ampas Boys* in 2000. Before the *Ampas Boys*, captain Danny Agulto's *Love Boat* held the previous record of 624.34 lbs in 1997.

The *St. Patrick*, captained by Rimie Entiendez with Danilo Salinas as the angler, topped the mahi category with a 13.5-lb catch, while *The Marianas*—composed of captain Jesus C. Muna and anglers Joseph "J.J." Muna, Joseph "J-Boy" Muna, and Antonio Santos—came in second with 12.2 lbs.

John Yarofalir's *CM 3828 PU* finished third with an 11.0-lb catch. Chesman Faqoliige, Gino Lipuw, and Tony Yarobwemal were the anglers.

Dave Kapileo's *Islander* had the heaviest skipjack that weighed 18.2 lbs to beat *Blu By U*'s 18.05-lb catch. Jess Hapdei, Mark Hapdei, Kiku Hapdei, Maximo Kapileo, Lucian George, and Davelyn Kapileo were part of the *Islander's* crew.

Bao-Thanh Nguyen, Johnny Cruz, Joe Malicsi, and Kerry Cutting joined Dr. Hoa Nguyen on the *Blu By U*, which also placed second in the billfish category with a 132.5-lb catch.

My Lady Gora of captain Jesse B. Aldan completed the Top 3 finishers in the skipjack category with a 17.8-lb catch. Jason B. Aldan, Ray Roberto, Bernard Religio, and Henry Hofschneider were his anglers.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	42	.576	—
Baltimore	50	49	.505	7
Tampa Bay	51	51	.500	7½
Toronto	50	51	.495	8
Boston	44	57	.436	14

Central Division

Kansas City	61	38	.616	—
Minnesota	52	47	.525	9
Chicago	48	50	.490	12½
Detroit	48	52	.480	13½
Cleveland	45	54	.455	16

West Division

Los Angeles	55	44	.556	—
Houston	56	45	.554	—
Texas	47	52	.475	8
Seattle	46	55	.455	10
Oakland	45	56	.446	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	52	46	.531	—
New York	52	48	.520	1
Atlanta	46	54	.460	7
Miami	42	58	.420	11
Philadelphia	38	63	.376	15½

Central Division

St. Louis	64	36	.640	—
Pittsburgh	58	41	.586	5½
Chicago	52	47	.525	11½
Cincinnati	44	54	.449	19
Milwaukee	44	57	.436	20½

West Division

Los Angeles	56	45	.554	—
San Francisco	55	45	.550	½
Arizona	48	51	.485	7
San Diego	47	53	.470	8½
Colorado	43	55	.439	11½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament

PHOTOS By JOEL D. PINAROC AND JON PEREZ

A pair of billfish, top, a wahoo, and three tuna are lined up after being weighed during last weekend's 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Several kids had their picture taken with some of the fish that were caught on Sunday.

The two-member crew of the *Trimia* pose with their billfish.

Officials clean *Aquaholics*' 146-lb billfish entry.

The crew of *My Lady Gora* prepares to dock after the first day of competition last Saturday.

Ben and Ki heads back to Smiling Cove Marina.

Tweety's entry in the billfish category was one pound short of a third place finish. The George Pangelinan-captained boat lost to the *Emmanuel* (129 lbs) but was given the Yamaha Special Prize.

The officers of the CNMI Boating Safety made sure that all captains and crew are safe.

The Marianas heads out to sea as the siren sounded off to signal the start of the tournament.

Tournament officials and volunteers unload fish that were caught by the *Trimia*.

Roger Goodell upholds Tom Brady's 4-game suspension

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Syndergaard dominates, Mets hit 2 homers to beat Padres

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James to continue fishing in 'lucky spot'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mike James enjoys a light moment after he and his crew arrived last week before the start of the 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Derby.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Emmanuel boat captain Mike James vowed to return and defend their title next year where he and his crew would again search for the winning catch at the same spot that earned for them two victories in the 2015 Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

The James-captained *Emmanuel*, along with anglers George Arriola and Saipan's Christian Camacho, became the big winners of the 31st edition of the annual fishing derby with their 234.5-lb billfish claiming the grand prize.

James and Arriola, who are both from Guam, were part of the same crew that caught the record-breaking 942-lb Pacific Blue Marlin in 2012. Camacho is the newest member of their team.

James said that they caught their tournament-winning billfish in the same spot where they reeled in that monster marlin three years ago.

"We just decided to went up north near Marpi on both days. That's the same spot where we caught that 900-lb plus a wahoo," said James in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* during last Monday night's awards banquet.

James added that he and his crew waited for almost three hours before catching that 234.5-lb grand prize-winning billfish.

Despite failing to break their record and at the same time catch a mahi, James said they remain thankful for their win.

"Patience, luck, and of course with a little help from God. That's why, we thank the Lord for keeping us safe and helping us win," said James. "You also need to be patient in catching a Mahi. Sometimes you can easily get one right away."

"We were really hoping to catch a bigger billfish. That was our plan for this year but the conditions were different. It was hot and

See JAMES on Page 26

Diaz, Docomo win scoring battle

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Veteran gunner Tony Diaz won his scoring duel with Allen Reyes in leading Docomo Pacific to a 92-79 victory over Top Development Inc. in the continuation of action in the 2015 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Diaz scored 32 points beating Reyes' 31 as Docomo along with Saipan Ice joined Marianas Resort and Tan Holdings in the win column.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was battling Marianas Brokers Inc. and Joeten Enterprises were playing against McDonald's at press time.

Diaz poured in 13 of his 16 first half points in the second period to help Docomo erect a 54-33 lead at the turn.

Docomo was never threatened after that and always had an answer to TDI's repeated comeback tries to cruise to the double-digit win.

Robert Sanciangco, Melvin Manibusan, and Richard Mendiola combined for 32 points to back up Diaz's game-long brilliance. Three other players—Conrad Sablan, Rick Sanchez, and Jaynard White turned in 8 markers each, while Jayson Hayes had 4 to end Docomo's scoring.

Raymond Velasco also had a productive output for TDI with 29, while Jeron Reyes had a quiet 11 markers.

Earlier, Saipan Ice held Cape Air to a free throw in the opening period in coasting to a lopsided 78-41 decision.

Derick Rangamar was on fire for Saipan Ice as he scattered 27 points to lead their team's offensive onslaught while John Santy collected 21 markers.

Michael Welson and Treat Kaipat each contributed 12 and 11 points also for Saipan Ice, which enjoyed a 60-27 spread entering the final 10 minutes of play.

Only four players scored for Saipan Ice with James Yanrulu and Benedict Canete ending up with 14 and 13 markers, while George Camacho and Isiah Tamalo finishing with 8 and 6 points apiece.

First Game

Saipan Ice 78 – Rangamar 27, Santy 21, Welson 12, Kaipat 11, Smith 5, Cayading 2.

Cape Air 41 – Yanrulu 14, Canete 13, Camacho 8, Tamalo 6.

Scoring by quarters: 22-1, 44-17, 60-27, 78-41.

See DIAZ on Page 26

NMI Infielders want to do their share

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Second of a three-part series

Lorenzo Sebaklim and the five other infielders are hoping to contribute to the CNMI All-Stars' cause in the 2015 Senior League World Series, which starts on Sunday at the Shawn T. Mansfield Stadium in Bangor, Maine.

Sixteen-year-old Sebaklim, an incoming 11th-grader at Marianas High School, said they would need a total team effort when they go up against the nine other competing teams. The CNMI will represent the Asia-Pacific region.

Canada, Europe-Africa, Latin America, host Maine, U.S. West, U.S. Southwest, U.S. Central, U.S. East, and U.S. Southeast are the other squads in the modified double-elimination tournament.

See NMI on Page 26

NAME: **Anthony Agulto**
POSITION: **Catcher**
AGE: **17**
VILLAGE: **Kannat Tabla**
FAVORITE TEAM: **LA Angels**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Mike Trout**

NAME: **Roke Tenorio**
POSITION: **Shortstop**
AGE: **16**
VILLAGE: **San Roque**
FAVORITE TEAM: **LA Angels**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Derek Jeter**

NAME: **Richard Atalig**
POSITION: **Pitcher**
AGE: **15**
VILLAGE: **As Matuis**
FAVORITE TEAM: **NY Yankees**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Derek Jeter**

NAME: **Ethan Franklin Babauta**
POSITION: **Pitcher/first and second base**
AGE: **16**
VILLAGE: **Dandan**
FAVORITE TEAM: **Oakland Athletics**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Josh Reddick**

NAME: **Henry Lizama**
POSITION: **Shortstop**
AGE: **16**
VILLAGE: **Chalan Kiya**
FAVORITE TEAM: **NY Yankees**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Derek Jeter**